

The Steps, Gwangju Biennale Park

金高芸

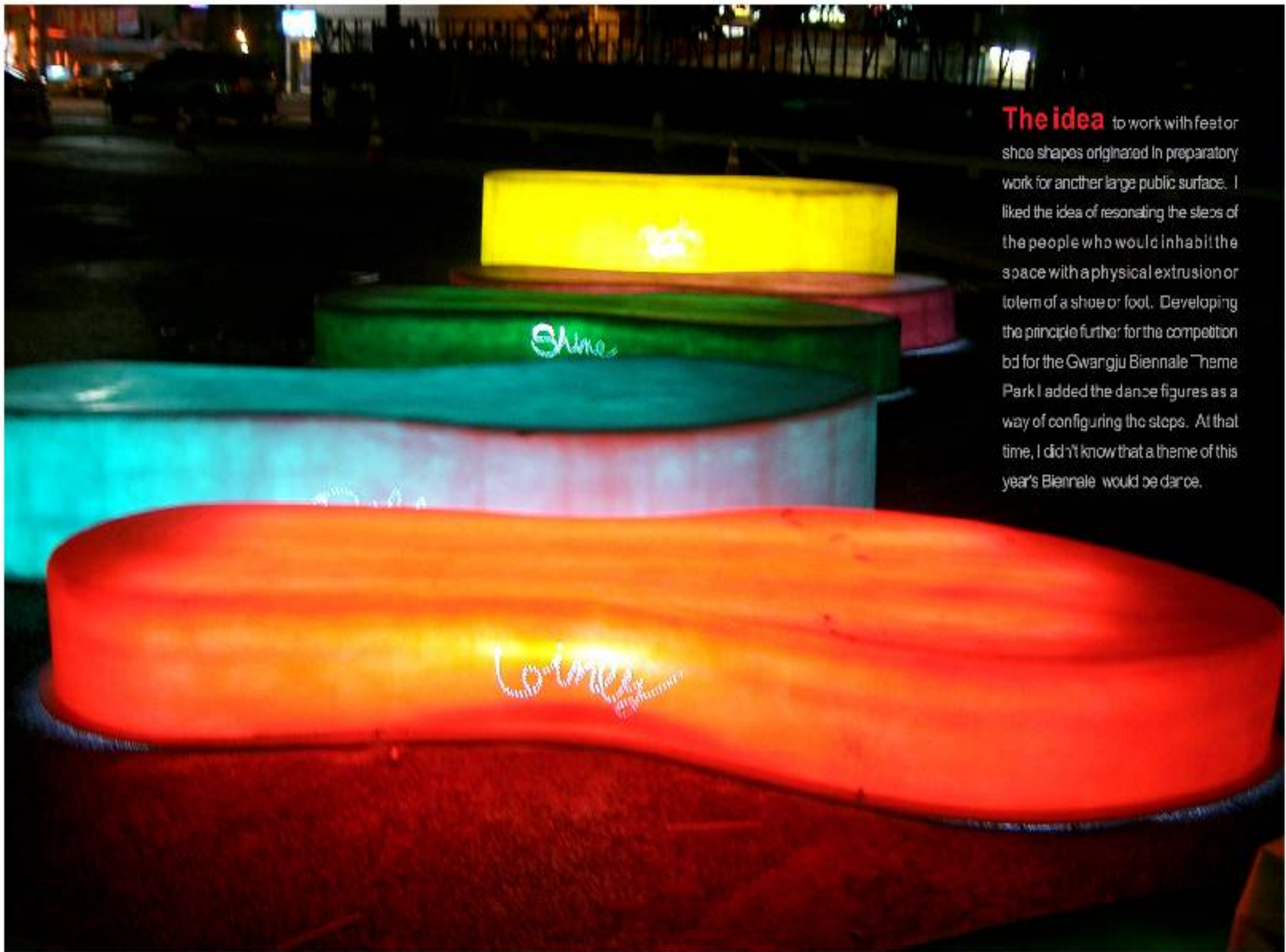
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The steps

Illuminated FRP shapes for the Gwangju Biennale Theme Park



I have been a dancer since I was a child, performing at home for my family at first, later, bursting out as a full-fledged mover at my first social dances in Summer camp in my early teens. In university I took many dance and movement course to try to study the expressivity of the body for use in directing my actors. I was looking for the non-verbal human expressivity. All my films are articulated with what I called a body-oriented narrative, with the camera concentrating as much on the body as on the facial expressions of the actors. My dancing has even taken me to various stage appearances in in England and in Canada.



The idea to work with feet or shoe shapes originated in preparatory work for another large public surface. I liked the idea of resonating the steps of the people who would inhabit the space with a physical extrusion or totem of a shoe or foot. Developing the principle further for the competition bid for the Gwangju Biennale Theme Park I added the dance figures as a way of configuring the steps. At that time, I didn't know that a theme of this year's Biennale would be dance.



Dance, as music, provides a relatively neutral foil through which we can observe the modern Korean psyche - grounded in the traditional but interpenetrated by foreign influence. Dance by its nature is social, because it is usually accompanied by music it usually implies festivities of some kind. Festivities are the fruit of society in every society.



I felt that dance was an interesting way to approach the intervention of a large theme park designed by a westerner in the context of provincial capital Gwangju. I wanted to create a public artwork that everyone could understand and enjoy on some level, one that would invite the citizen's of gwangju to find their own ways to inhabit. If one says that a city has a rhythm then it must be danced with big illuminated feet.



STEPS
permanent installation
illuminated FRP
Gwangju Biennale, Korea

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