Many of the artworks in the ICA installation will be “activated”—Kang’s preferred term—by performances throughout the run of the exhibition based on the artist’s instructions. Viewers are invited to imagine the museum space as potentially kinetic, with objects meant for touching and moving. Kang’s interest in communal experiences within the gallery exists within a long history of installation art where collective spectatorship and interaction move towards participatory democracy. Yet, this utopian thrust is met by the strict limitations imposed by the artist on the way her objects are handled. Like the Chusangmu dance, the movements of Kang’s performers are carefully scripted. For Kang, freedom is always already inscribed within a set of cultural and political limitations. The black mat is, in her words, “the minimal space each individual in this society is provided with, upon which to stand and sustain one’s weight.” Black Mat Oriole sustains this tension. Freedom is implied but restricted, a condition amplified given the current geopolitical climate.

— Alex Klein, Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE ’60) Curator and Kate Kracon, Laporte Associate Curator

The opening weekend of the exhibition will include a new activation directed by Kang in person and will feature Seoul-based choreographers Hyeongjun Cho and Hongseok Jang.

A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition featuring essays by Cho and Hongseok Jang.

There will be an activation in ICA’s galleries every Saturday and Sunday at 2PM during the run of the exhibition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

5PM Members Preview Suki Seokyeong Kang: Black Mat Oriole, The Last Place They Thought Of, Open Video Call

6:30PM Public Opening Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

2PM Activation of Black Mat Oriole by Hyeongjun Cho and Hongseok Jang

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

2PM Activation of Black Mat Oriole by Hyeongjun Cho and Hongseok Jang and conversation with artist Suki Seokyeong Kang

There will be an activation in ICA’s galleries every Saturday and Sunday at 2PM during the run of the exhibition.