

## A PORTAL TO THE NEXT

Post-Nature exhibition, Ulsan Art Museum (6 January 2022 – 10 April 2022)

a mixed media living installation

with scraped cars and growing mushroom

Shu Lea Cheang, 2022



*"We are stuck with the problem of living despite economic and ecological ruin..... Neither tales of progress nor of ruin tell us how to think about collaborative survival. It is time to pay attention to mushroom picking. Not that this will save us— but it might open our imaginations." - Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, The mushroom at the end of the world : on the possibility of life in capitalist ruins*

In nature's forest, we hike the trails, we find and pick mushrooms; in Post-Nature's jungle, we generate (metal, plastic, electronic) trash as the new 3D landscape. We embrace this human made trashscape as proof that we have lived and wasted, came and conquered.

Hyundai Motor Company's Ulsan plant rolls off 6000 motors a day as Ulsan prides itself as the heart of automotive industry in Korea. In its massive factory production, safety functions are tested out precisely. The tested cars are then scraped to prevent its further circulation into the car markets. These brand new, yet redundant and recyclable scraped cars, are totems of techno-capitalism that deserve their spotlights in the discourse of Post-Nature.

In awe of the scraped car relics, we shake off our obsession with speed and efficiency, we embark on trail hike and mushroom hunt amidst the ruins. In between scraped metal parts, the resilient mushroom blooms, the mosaics of mycelium interlace, a next nature's mycelium network strives to exist with tales of collective survival, leading us to a portal to the next.