



# *Outside Perspectives*

**Korea 2023**

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Mee Ok Icaro

*Mee Ok Icaro, an award-winning memoirist and poet adopted from Korea and residing in the West, is recognized for her literary contributions featured in prestigious publications such as the LA Times, Boston Globe Magazine, and the Bennington Review. Her work is also showcased in Michael Pollan's anthology "Trips Worth Telling" and she has been featured in the Netflix docuseries "(Un)well" as well as Dr. Gabor Maté's NYT bestselling book The Myth of Normal.*

*In her photo series "Adopting Jeju," Mee Ok explores the profound resonance between South Korea's history of abandonment and the plight of its adoptees, numbering upwards of 200,000. The imagery meditates on the island of Jeju, its history marred by erasure and colonization, mirroring the experiences of adoptees. The rows of anonymous graves symbolize the adoptees who will never reclaim their birth names or bloodlines, highlighting the silent devastation woven into the fabric of Korean culture. This project draws parallels between modern international adoption and the tragic events of the Jeju massacre, underscoring the enduring scars left by the Korean War, itself a misnomer given that the fighting and armistice was between North Korea and America.*



