

MA-RW201-S1

I spent weeks trying to figure out this documentary; an idea to put together that represented my artistry; one that represented me as a person, yet, it had been here the entire time. I was engulfed by it. Every single day of my life I've experienced what Kim Sung Hyun tried to portray through his videos. Helplessness, depression, drowning, regret. But within all of that, each and every single one of us has the ability to create that negativity and that destruction into something absolutely beautiful. And though we feel alone, through this expression; through this artwork, we are actually together.

Kim Sung Hyun (김성현)

I discovered who Kim Sung Hyun was when he appeared on Season 4 of Project Runway Korea. I had no idea that he would then become the artistry behind Bangtan and lead them to receiving the award for Best World Performers in Hong Kong of 2015.

His work changed the expectation that we have for groups like Bangtan. Comparing this trilogy to all the past work that Bangtan did without his artistry, you can see how much they've grown to be able to depict the story that they've always wanted to tell. With Kim Sung Hyun, they were able to go above and beyond and Kim Sung Hyun's art definitely shined in the spotlight as well.

The artistic decisions along with the use of little dialogue in "화양연화 On Stage - Prologue" illustrates the art and the feelings through destructive relationships, mental illness, grief...yet, as the piece goes on there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel which inspired me to create my own pieced based off of his artistic ideas.

The films used a lot of symbolism, using things that we would never think about on a daily basis or even consider an actual piece of art. Lying on a mattress in the middle of a meadow; destroying a wall with graffiti. Promise rings. The elements. Each and every thing within this piece could be considered destructive behavior, yet, as you watch it, it looks beautiful. They're creating something beautiful out of their sadness and destruction, coming together as a family to gain the freedom and the beauty (the butterfly represents that), that they couldn't achieve on their own.

Every single thing that I filmed represented destruction; my own or someone else's. Graffiti in an abandoned warehouse. Loneliness. Being lost. Being in the darkness. And every single thing that I felt when filming this reminded me that even though I felt these things, it didn't define me. Looking at everything that was broken; everything that someone else created gave me comfort; the same comfort that I felt when I first discovered Kim Sung Hyun and Bangtan. Even though we aren't together, even though we have different problems; speak different languages; live miles away from each other, through destruction and through the art that we create out of that, doesn't that mean we can smile?