THE LIVING DEATH
Embrace the Fear
"The Living Death" exhibition is a recontextualization of contemporaneous global crises presented as a juxtaposition between two worlds, one real and one imaginary. Structured as an immersive experience in a full length showing of the Netflix series, Kingdom, it forces participants to compare their experiences through the year of ongoing coronavirus pandemic with the events of a televised narrative. The Kingdom is filmic historical fiction that takes place in the 16th century Joseon Dynasty in South Korea and depicts bureaucratic ambition amidst a ranging zombie apocalypse. The exhibition builds out similarities between the times of COVID-19 and those of the zombie virus from Kingdom. It takes place Michigan Central Station in Detroit, a building that was abandoned in the 1980s. Although the station underwent restoration by the Ford Motor Company in 2018, the exhibition assumes the site’s ruinous state. The dilapidated background compounds the unease of a parallel journey through two mass contagions. The exhibition uses a combination of projection mapping and atmospheric affects, conflating and confusing conditions and unsettling the viewers’ sense of perspective on this moment. “The Living Death” employs the catharsis of the horror genre and provides a much-needed space to direct expressions of and encourage release of fear.
Season 1

0. Intro
1.1. Rumor has it
1.2. Unknown virus
1.3. Pandemic
1.4. Panic attack
1.5. Shutdown
1.6. Displaced
Season 2

2.1. Stacked corpses
2.2. Reveal the truth
2.3. Repeating the same mistakes
2.4. Discover the hope
2.5. Darkest hour is just before the dawn
2.6. New Normal

0. Fin
0. Introductory of Exhibition
1.1. Rumor has it
2020 - 2021

Infodemic and the spread of fake news during COVID-19 era.

1.2. Unknown virus
December 31, 2019

Chinese authorities treated dozens of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause.

1.3. Pandemic
March 11, 2020

The WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

1.4. Panic attack
2020 - 2021

Anxiety and panic buying behaviour during the pandemic.

1.5. Shutdown
March 17, 2020

The states restrict tourists, visitors from crossing border.

1.6. Displaced
2020 -2021

To practice social distancing and self quarantine.

Season 1 Episode 1 to 6
2.1. Stacked corpses  
April 30, 2020

No resting place for coronavirus dead.

2.2. Reveal the truth  
February 6, 2020

Dr. Wenliang Li who tried to warn about the coronavirus, had died by the coronavirus.

Season 2 Episode 1 and 2
2.3. Repeating the same mistakes
May 25, 2020

Police brutality leading cause of death.
2.4. Discover the hope
November 9, 2020

Pfizer and bioNTech announced vaccine candidate
2.5. Darkest hour is just before the dawn
2021
COVID-19 crisis escalate in India and Brazil.
2.6. New Normal
2020 - 2021

The new normal: How life has changed due to COVID-19?