

5.25 Squared Meters

KyungMook Kim

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VR Installation | 2020 (work in progress) | Loop

“5.25 Squared Meters” explores the existential and political questions that lie between incarceration and freedom. The work draws from my personal experience in South Korea’s Tongyeong Detention Center from 2015 to 2016. I was sentenced to eighteen months in prison due to my objection to military service. During this time, I was put into solitary confinement.

“5.25 Squared Meters” referring to the size of my prison cell, is a VR installation placed inside a cell built to those measurements. The project explores the incarceration of one’s physical and psychological faculties, along with the struggle to retain and regain a sense of agency and freedom. The VR project chronicles my imprisonment through journals and letters that allowed me to survive and maintain my autonomy.

“5.25 Squared Meters” deals with space, memory, and identity by focusing on the phenomenology of being incarcerated, an experience that alters one’s sense of space and time. Alongside the effects of new technology on human perception and consciousness, I investigate a correlation between virtual space and the structures of memory and the mind.

Video Documentation

This VR installation is a work in progress and will be completed this year. I have focused on developing the technical processes of VR and volumetric video, and will create the narrative for this piece for the rest of the year.

– Video Documentation: the excerpt is a video demo recorded from the visitor's point of view when wearing the VR headset and is a minimally edited example

– Time & Story: this project draws from everyday life in solitary confinement to recreate 24 hours of the experience. The narration is partially inserted as a sample, and will be used more to unpack the whole story of a life in prison. Audio is a placeholder and will be recorded again.

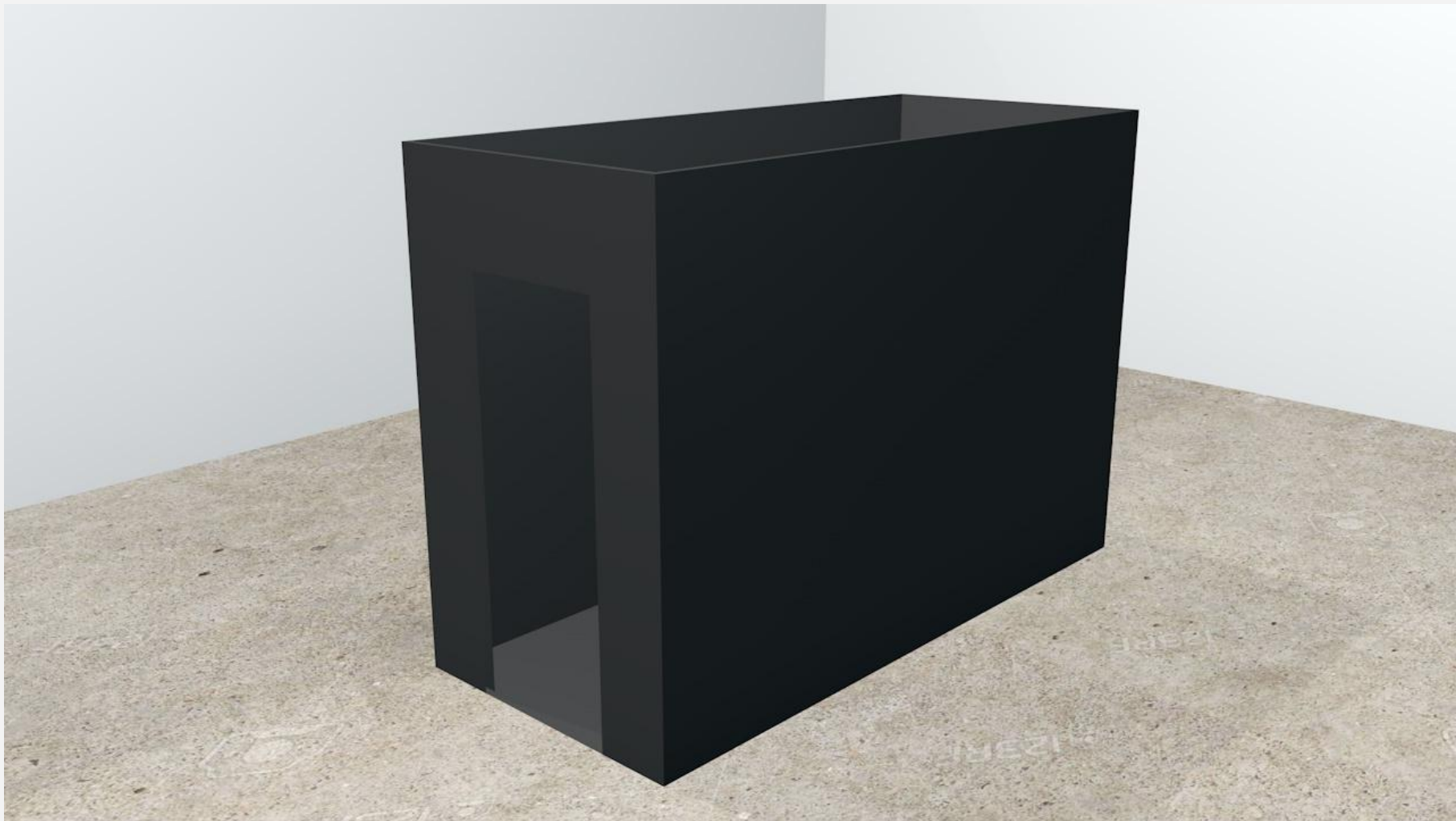
– Performance: Volumetric video footage of the artist is presented within the VR performing some of the behaviors that he repeated during a solitary confinement such as walking, meditation, and reading.

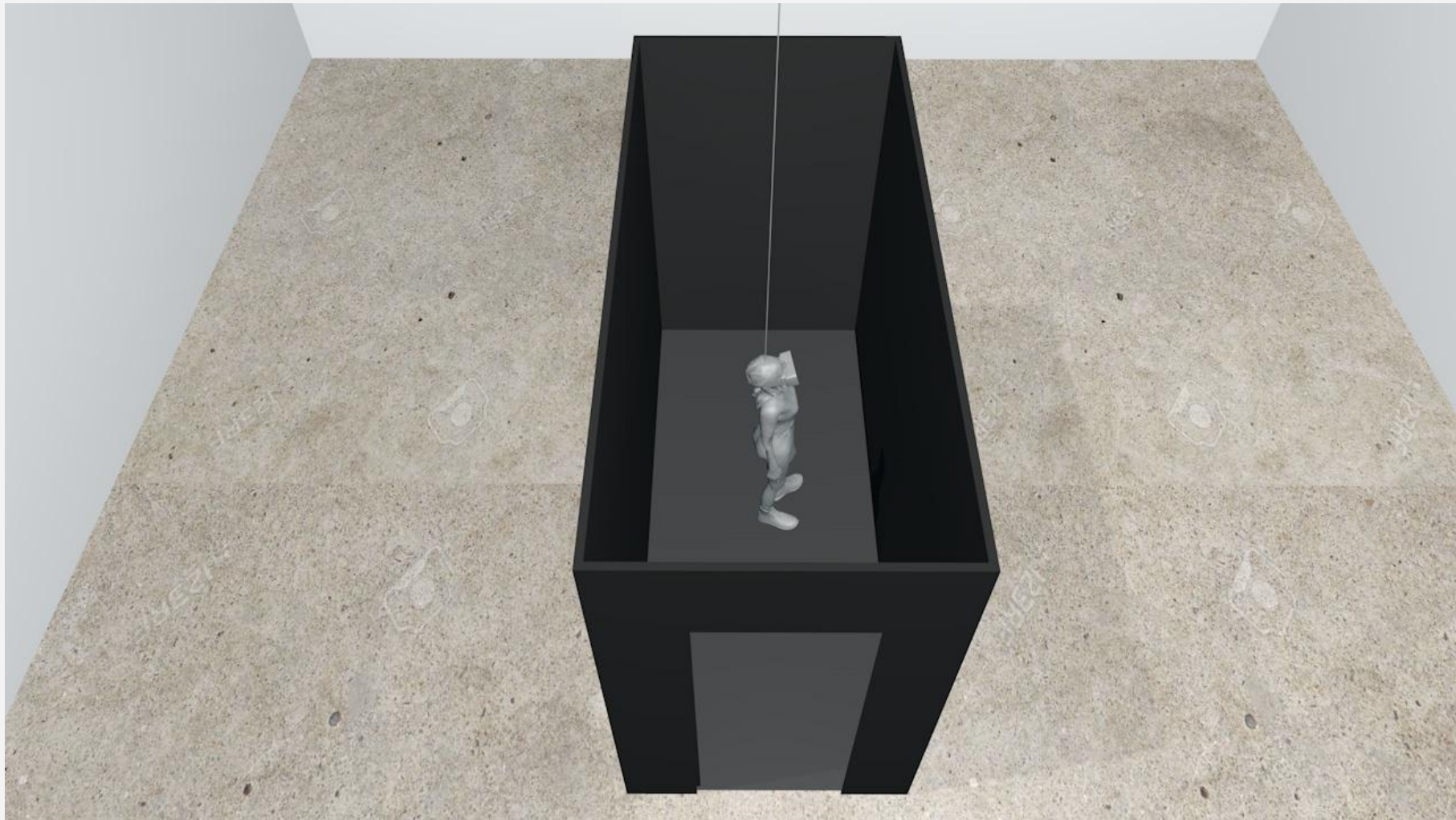


[Click here to watch](#)

Installation Plan for Exhibition

This VR piece will be installed in a box built to the dimensions of 5.25 squared meters (1.53 x 3.5 meters), as titled, reflecting the dimensions of the actual prison cell. The visitor will step into this enclosed space, a black box. In the center of this box they will find a VR headset and enter the recreated 3D virtual space of solitary confinement. The following slides are images depicting the experience of the installation space.











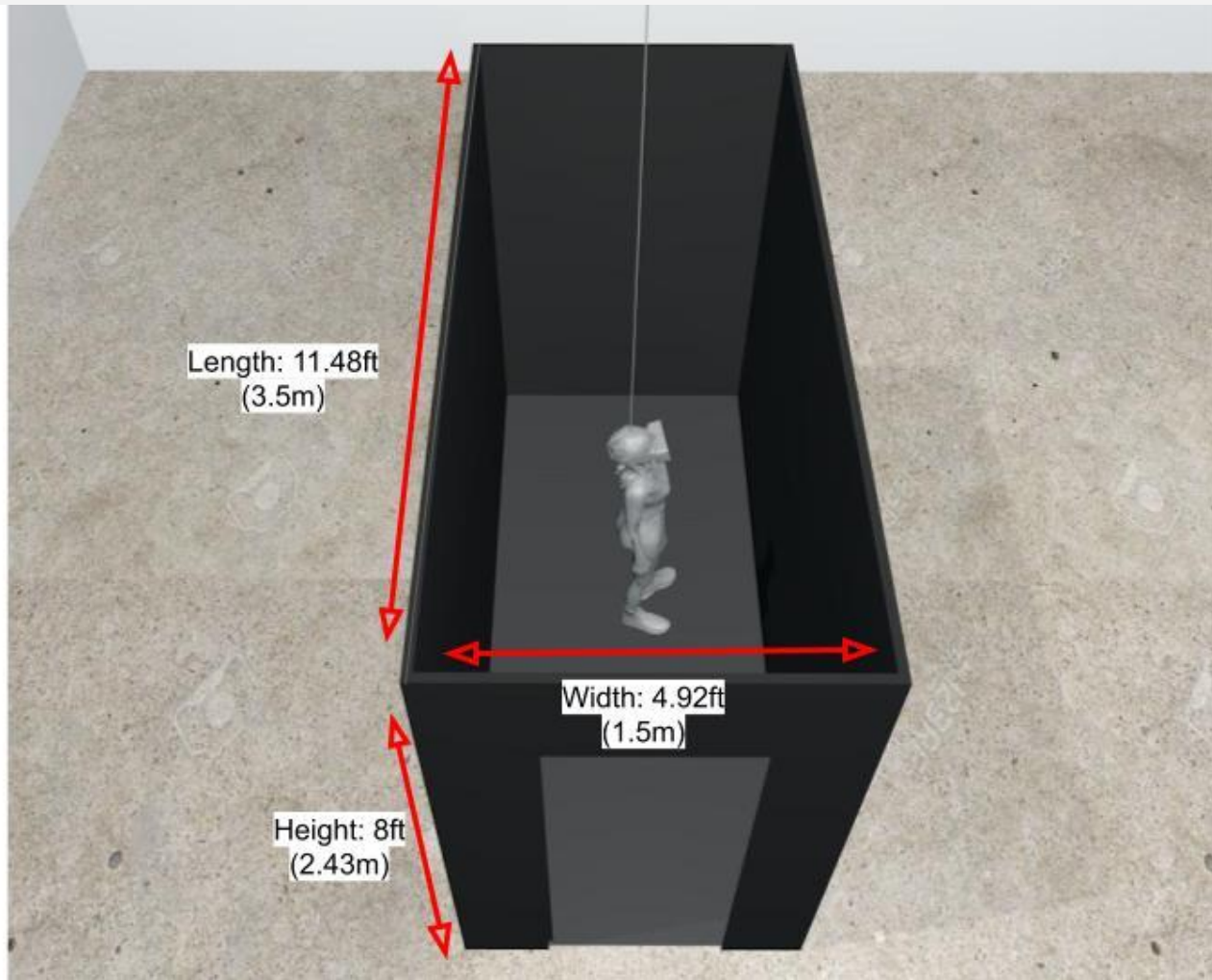


[Perspective View]

Length: 11.48ft (3.5m)

Width: 4.92ft (1.5m)

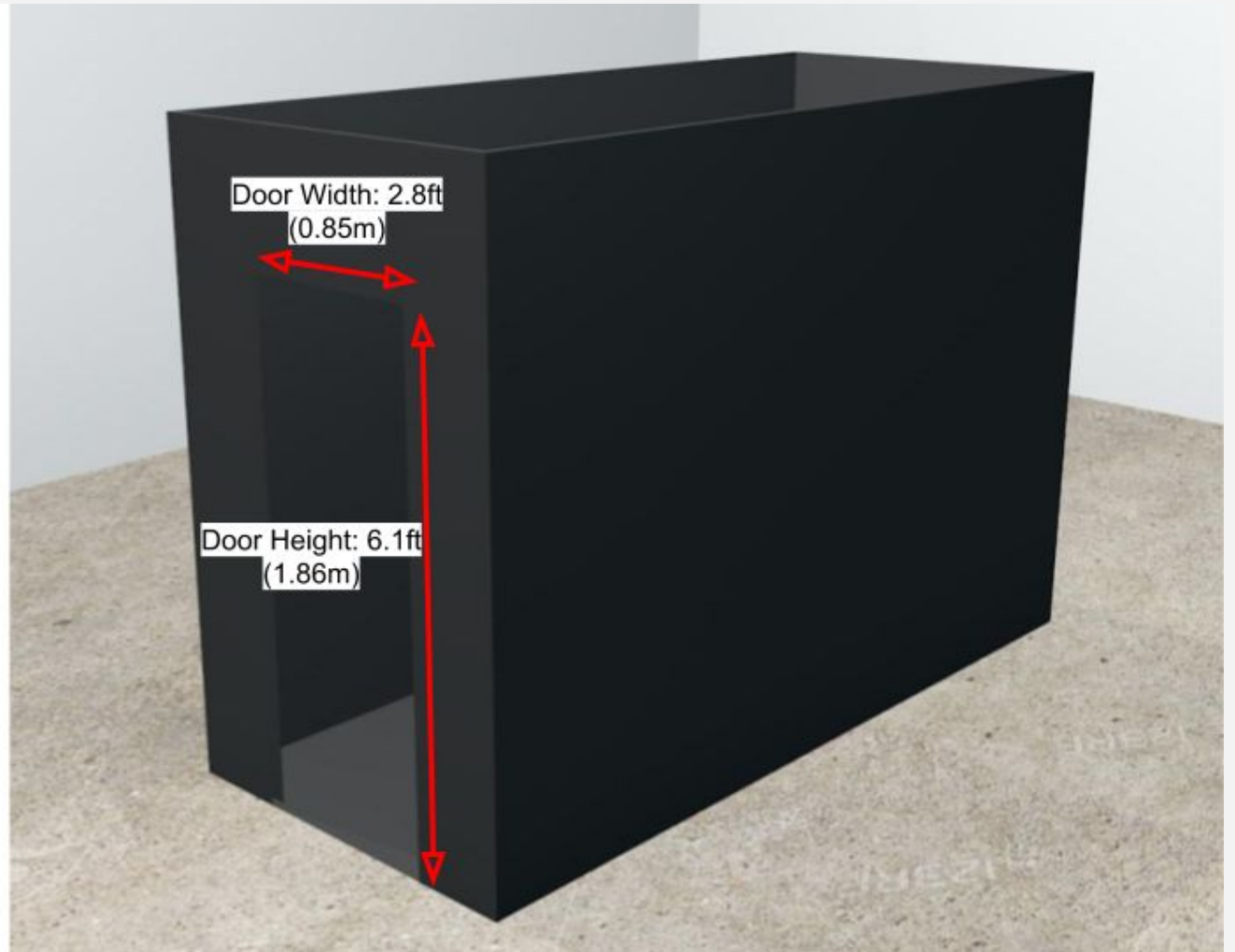
Height: 8ft (2.43m)



[Door Size]

Width: 2.8ft (0.85m)

Height: 6.1ft (1.86m)



[Contact]

kkim66@saic.edu

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