



**National Museum of  
Modern and Contemporary Art  
Korea**

**Communication and Media Team**  
30 Samcheong-ro, Sogyeok-dong,  
Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea

mmcapress@korea.kr  
+82-2-3701-9674



Youn Bummo, *Image provided by MMCA.*

***Yun Bummo, new director of MMCA presents renewed vision,  
objectives, and key aims.***

5 Mar 2019

MMCA Seoul

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA, Director Yun Bummo) held a press conference on Tuesday, March 5, at MMCA Seoul, presenting its **renewed vision, objectives, and key aims.**

With the museum celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, recently appointed director Yun Bummo laid out his vision for the MMCA's future direction and introduced priority goals that would serve this vision as well as programs organized in celebration of MMCA's 50th anniversary.

With 50 years of history since its first opening, the MMCA is evaluating its achievements and limitations over the past half-century and is looking ahead to prepare for a new leap into the future. The next 50 years will be dedicated to reinforcing the museum's role as a central hub of contemporary art and culture in order to become "**a globally open museum that shares cultural arts with the world**" to create "**a more compassionate and imaginative society through art.**" Under these missions, MMCA aims to:

**1) Grow as a collaborative and open museum.** The MMCA seeks to expand its relations with other related organizations such as the National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History by solidifying the collaborative network. Excavating timeless topics, the MMCA is leading cooperative research and exhibition projects to promote pragmatic exchanges of human resources and content. With the goal of becoming an "open museum," the MMCA envisions the next 50 years as an opportunity to dismantle the boundaries of generation, genre, and region and to actively communicate with the contemporary art and culture scenes. The MMCA is fortifying the existing network among museums to enable tour exhibitions at public museums, exhibition-related archive consultations with regional museums, discovery and introduction of local artists, and conservation support for public and private museums. In 2020, the MMCA will begin preliminary research and planning for joint exhibition projects.

**2) Rewrite and reinterpret Korean art history through inter-Korean exchange and cooperation.** The MMCA hopes to expand the spectrum of discourse on Korean art history by creating and pursuing opportunities for interaction with North Korean public institutions to develop joint programs such as museum collection exchange exhibitions and special joint exhibitions. Definitive steps will be taken in line with the progress of the inter-Korean relationship.

**3) Serve as a bridgehead for global expansion of Korean art.** By consolidating the international affairs formerly handled independently by various museum departments, the MMCA seeks to systemize and invigorate international exchange. Foremost, exchange strategies will be optimized

by region. The MMCA intends to expand and bolster international exchanges of human and material resources in the art scene through an integrated management system that oversees the Culture Companion and residency programs, exhibitions, and research projects. The *Yun Hyong-keun touring exhibition* at the Fortuny Museum and the *Korean Artist Pop-up Project: Venice Meeting Point* at the Navy Officer's Club scheduled during the 2019 Venice Biennale period will particularly maximize exposure of Korean contemporary art and breathe new energy into the Korean art scene. Moreover, the MMCA is working towards successful executions of joint research and exhibition projects in cooperation with venerated museums in the United States and will continue to publish Korean and English versions of *MMCA Artist Studies Series* to introduce diverse works by Korean artists to the contemporary art world.

**4) Reinforce its role as a research institute.** In an effort to formalize Korean modern and contemporary art history, the MMCA mobilizes a special research team of internal and external experts to propel a virtuous cycle of mid- to long-term projects and correlated archives, academic activities, education programs, exhibitions, and publications. The findings of the research will be compiled in Korean and English for international distribution.

**5) Establish individual identities of the four MMCA venues and enhance the Children's Museum program.** The MMCA is expediting the process of characterizing the four museum venues in Gwacheon, Deoksugung, Seoul, and Cheongju. MMCA Gwacheon is intensifying its studies and recording of Korean contemporary art history while also expanding and strengthening its Children's Museum program to advocate a family-centered, eco-friendly museum encouraging healthy imagination. Securing personnel and budget, the MMCA is constructing a new foundation for stable management of the Children's Museum program. MMCA Deoksugung is focused on defining and examining Korean contemporary art in light of the nation's history, while MMCA Seoul is presenting exhibitions of demand-generating works of Korean and international contemporary interdisciplinary art. MMCA Cheongju, as an art collection and preservation center, is presenting an exhibition of Korean contemporary artworks in its collection preserved in a specialized open storage.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the MMCA's establishment. First opened in 1969 inside the

walls of Gyeongbokgung Palace, the MMCA relocated to Deoksugung Palace in 1973. A new museum venue opened in Gwacheon in 1986, followed by an annex museum in Deoksugung in 1998, the Seoul venue in 2013, and finally, the Cheongju venue in 2018. With 50 years of accumulated history and various expert opinions as its basis, the MMCA intends to serve as a fountain of artistic discourse for those working in or studying the field while producing systematic and historically sound exhibitions to serve its educational duty to the public. Welcoming the first year of its four-museum system as well as its 50th anniversary, the MMCA presents as a major project of the first half of 2019 the **international symposium “What Do Museums Change?” (June) to evoke international interest in the social role of museums**. During the second half of the year, *The Square* (November 2019–March 2020), a large-scale joint exhibition by MMCA Gwacheon, Seoul, and Deoksugung commemorating the museum’s 50th anniversary, will present a retrospective of the past 100 years of Korean art history. Throughout the fall season, large-scale events, namely **MMCA Festival** (MMCA Gwacheon, September) and **MMCA Night** (MMCA Seoul, September), will invite the public to share the joy of communication and interactive art experiences. In December, *MMCA Best Collections* will be published in Korean and English for international distribution.

Newly appointed director Yun Bummo announced, “The MMCA is reinforcing its public service duty by demonstrating Korean art’s identity and strengthening cooperative networks with diverse regions to emerge as a globally prominent museum beyond an Asian art central,” and expressed confidence in his vision to “**make MMCA a friendly, open, fun, yet systemized museum.**”

-----

Please check the line below for the images and further information and feel free to contact us via either email or phone for any inquiries.

<http://webhard.mmca.go.kr>

id : mmcapr1 / pw : 0987 (guest - 2019 - MMCA 2019)