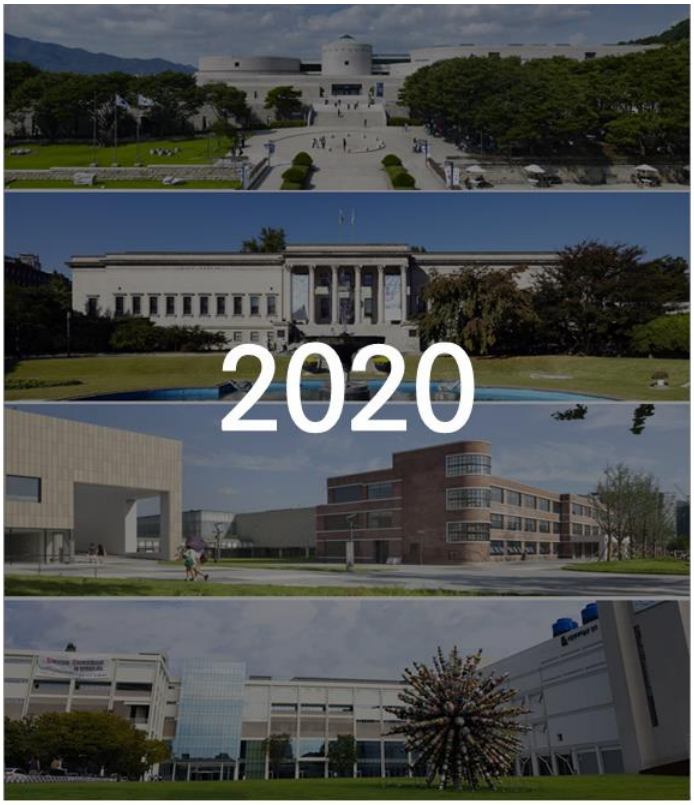
National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art
Korea

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MMCA 2020 Line-up

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA, director Yun Bummo) held a press conference on Thursday, January 9, and released its exhibition lineup for 2020.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary and the first year of its four-museum system (MMCA Gwacheon, MMCA Seoul, MMCA Deoksugung, and MMCA Cheongju), the MMCA hosted a wide range of exhibitions, international symposiums, and educational and cultural programs last year, attracting 2.74 million visitors. Following these successes, the museum introduced the exhibition objectives and lineup for 2020, promising to take more originative leaps in the next half century.

2020 Exhibition Objectives

The MMCA will magnify and expand the key functions of its four venues—Deoksugung, Seoul, Gwacheon, and Cheongju—through exhibitions differentiated and systemized according to the spatial and regional characteristics of each branch. **MMCA Deoksugung** will seek to expand the horizon of Korean modern art through the inclusion of new fields such as calligraphy and literature. **MMCA**

Seoul will solidify its position as the frontier of Korean contemporary art and a comprehensive center for the exhibition of contemporary art. **MMCA Gwacheon** will reinforce its research- and family-centered functions by recontextualizing the modern and contemporary art of Korea, expanding the body of historical reference to encompass architecture and design, and strengthening its children's museum. **MMCA Cheongju** will adopt a virtuous cycle of storage-research-conservation-exhibition for items in the museum collection.

Detailed exhibitions will be held at each museum, based on **five basic objectives: exhibition based on interdisciplinary research, balance of genres, in-depth research and fostering of Korean artists, contextualization and specialization of collections, and international exchange and Asian discourse**.

First, the museums will present **exhibitions based on interdisciplinary research** and collaboration. MMCA Seoul is preparing the exhibition ***Unflattening*** (working title) as a forum for social discussion that seeks world peace and coexistence through joint research with scholars in various fields, including history, literature, art history, war history, and feminism. The exhibition will call upon and cast a new light on the Korean War through the language of art. MMCA Deoksugung will present ***Art and Literature in Modern Korean History***, which will illuminate the relationship between literature and art in the course of Korean modern art. MMCA Seoul will also launch ***MMCA Multidisciplinary Project 2020***, an exhibition that combines cutting-edge technologies and art, **adopting new technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution**, including VR, 5G communication, artificial intelligence, and immersive media. Also, beginning with ***MMCA Performing Arts 2020: Museum for All, Museum for Dogs***, a total of five programs crossing the genres of art, theater, and dance will be offered at MMCA Seoul, exploring the main theme "heavy body."

The MMCA will seek **expansion and balance of genres through exhibitions focusing on calligraphy, printmaking, craft, architecture, and design**. The MMCA's first special exhibition of calligraphy, ***Modern and Contemporary Korean Calligraphy***, will be held at the MMCA Deoksugung, highlighting the function and meaning of calligraphy within Korea's modern and contemporary visual culture and art. In MMCA Gwacheon, ***Prints as Media*** will highlight new characteristics of contemporary printmaking in Korea and propose a direction for the future; ***Reframing the Horizon of Crafts in Korea*** will examine the expansion and unfolding of contemporary craft in Korea from the 1950s through the 1970s; and ***Korean Architecture and Design in 1980s–1990s: The Olympic Effect*** will expand the discourse on visual culture, centering on Korean architecture and design before and after the 1988 Seoul Olympics, through the 1980s and the 1990s.

The MMCA will **support established and upcoming artists** through **retrospectives that examine and highlight works by Korean masters** and exhibition of new works. Comprehensive retrospective exhibitions of works by **Park Rehyun**, **Lee Seung Jio**, and **Lee Seung Taek** will be held at the MMCA Deoksugung, MMCA Gwacheon, and MMCA Seoul, respectively. MMCA Seoul will continue its prominent award program and exhibition of contemporary art in ***Korea Artist Prize 2020***, hold the ***MMCA Hyundai Motor Series 2020***, which is in its seventh year, and unveil the works of two finalists of ***Project #***, a new kind of public contest for nurturing up-and-coming artists that began in 2019 with sponsorship from Hyundai Motor.

To strengthen its role as the source of Korean art, the MMCA has planned new permanent exhibitions and collection exhibitions to showcase important works of contemporary art from home and abroad and from the museum's collections. First, Exhibition Hall 1 of MMCA Seoul will become a specialized space for collections. *MMCA Seoul Permanent Exhibition 2020+* will present well-known works of modern and contemporary art from the museum collection. Also at

MMCA Seoul, the *Collection of International Art* exhibition will display the newest trends in art, highlighting works by prominent contemporary artists abroad. MMCA Gwacheon will hold ***Mapping Korean Modern and Contemporary Art***, which will examine key topics in art history following specific historical and social situations, the reason for their appearance, the courses they took, their achievements, and their limitations. At MMCA Cheongju, a unique exhibition, ***Conservator C's Day***, will introduce the conservation and restoration phases of the collection life cycle.

The Asia Project began in 2018 to cast light on international exchanges and Asian art discourse, and its **second exhibition,** ***2020 Asia Project—Looking for Another Family***, will be held at MMCA Seoul. The exhibition will read Asia "now, at present," from various angles and present collaborative works by art and culture experts and artists from each region. MMCA Seoul has invited ***Sun & Sea (Marina)***, the performance art piece that was presented at the Lithuanian Pavilion and won a Golden Lion for best national pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019**.** Viewers in Korea will have the opportunity to see the performance this summer.

2020 Exhibition Lineup

1) Exhibitions based on interdisciplinary research

Unflattening

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: June – September 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Hsu Chia-Wei (Taiwan), Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho (Korea), Chto Delat (Russia), Kelvin Kyung Kun Park (Korea), and more

▲ Exhibition Overview

Unflattening (working title) is organized for the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. This exhibition seeks to examine overlooked testimonies surrounding the war and images of the people at the time, and to understand the nature of war from various perspectives.

The exhibition considers prisoners of war who chose a third country, dispatched servicemen who died in a faraway land, destruction of nature, women soldiers, and war orphans adopted to foreign countries. The MMCA has worked with researchers in women's studies, history, performing arts, and other fields to discover stories of different people who faced the ills of war and will present new works by domestic and international artists. The exhibition will also introduce works that explore topics such as anti-communist ideologies and conscription of South Korean men to examine the effects of the ongoing Korean War on society.

The Intersection of Art and Literature in Modern Korean History

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: November 2020 – January 2021 / MMCA Deoksugung
- Featured Artists: Rha Hyesuk, Kim Whanki, Lee Jungseob, Yi Sang, Jung Jiyong, and more

▲ Exhibition Overview

In Korea under Japanese occupation, art and literature were inseparable. Artists and writers actively

collaborated on the publication of books and magazines and met frequently in small associations (i.e. Guinhoe [Circle of Nine], Samsa Munhak ['34 Literature Club], Mogilhoe Art Association). While pursuing new aesthetics of the era together, they sought intellectual exchange and solidarity. This exhibition focuses on artists who straddled literature and art (i.e. Rha Hyesuk, Yi Sang, Park Taewon, Kim Yongjun, Kim Whanki), and examines the tightknit personal relationships between artists and writers (i.e. Yi Sang and Gu Bonung, Jeong Jiyong and Gil Jinseob, Lee Jungseob and Ku Sang, Kim Whanki and Kim Kwang-gyun). Ultimately, the exhibition traces the stream of consciousness of modern intellectuals who, with their burning passions, sought to vitalize art and literature under the unfortunate circumstances of forced occupation by the Japanese.

MMCA Performing Arts 2020《Museum for All, Museum for Dogs》

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: May 2020 / MMCA Seoul

▲ Exhibition Overview

In 2020, the MMCA will attempt various approaches to multidisciplinary art with "heavy body" as the keyword. First, the MMCA will invite people who for various reasons cannot visit the museum easily, while questioning the publicness of museums and the concept of public space in Korean society. If a museum is "for all," how far does the "all" extend? *Museum for All, Museum for Dogs* will invite dogs and dog lovers to the museum. For one month, a part of the museum will turn into a space where dogs and dog lovers can mingle, with programs focused on exhibitions, architecture, and multidisciplinary arts that consider both dogs and people. This project questions whether companion animals can be seen as legitimate members of society in public spaces, and tests whether museums and societies centered entirely on humans can accommodate non-human others.

MMCA Multidisciplinary Project 2020

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: October – December 2020 / MMCA Seoul

▲ Exhibition Overview

MMCA Multidisciplinary Project 2020 (working title) explores a wide range of art to question and think in novel ways about various aspects of society that are rapidly changing with the development of technology. Through active utilization or a critical approach to cutting-edge technology, the multidisciplinary project tests new visual, physical, temporal, and spatial possibilities presented by technology. In particular, with the introduction of the latest immersive technology, which generates experiences comparable to reality in the museum environment, the project contemplates topics that contemporary art has constantly dealt with—the relationship between reproduction and subject matter, reality and imagination, and sense and perception—from a new perspective.

2) Balance of genres

The Modern and Contemporary Korean Calligraphy

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: March – June 2020 / MMCA Deoksugung
- Featured Artists: Son Jae Hyung, Yoo Heekang, Kim Choonghyun, Kim Eunghyeon, Lee Cheolgyeong, Seo Heehwan, Lee Giwoo, Ko Bongjoo, Lee Ungno, Hwang Changbae, Nam Kwan, Choi Manlin, Oh Sufan, Kim Chong Yung,

Kwon Changryun, Hwang Sukbong, Choi Minryul, Yeo Taemyong,
Lee Sanghyeon, Kim Zhong Kun, Ahn Sang-soo, and more / 50 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

In East Asia, the genre of calligraphy has been called *shūfǎ* (書法; way/method/law of writing) in China and *shodō* (書道; way/principle of writing) in Japan. In Korea, calligraphy has been called *seoye* (書藝; art of writing) since the modern era. After liberation, artists paid attention to calligraphy as a means to revive national art and form Korea's original modernism. Calligraphers, too, were keen to encapsulate new modernity in their brushworks. Recently, calligraphy has been applied in various ways in design. Korean calligraphy and typography, which are considered the pop art of the art of writing, have shown new potential for contemporary calligraphy. *Modern and Contemporary Korean Calligraphy*, the MMCA's first special exhibition on calligraphy, highlights the roles and meaning of calligraphy in the modern and contemporary visual culture and art of Korea.

Prints as Media

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: May 2020 – August 2020 / MMCA Gwacheon
- Featured Artists: Around 30 domestic print artists

▲ Exhibition Overview

Prints as Media (working title) focuses on printmaking, one of today's marginalized genres, and examines the scalability and deliverability of print as a medium. Print will be examined from various angles as a medium of age-old techniques and art and as a medium for delivering messages. The exhibition seeks the direction and potential of printmaking as contemporary art.

The Reframing the Horizon of Crafts in Korea 1950-1970

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: September 2020 – February 2021 / MMCA Gwacheon
- Featured Artists: Yoo Kangyoul, Chung Kyu, Lee Jungsup, Choi Hyunchil, Choi Seungchun, Seo Sangwoo, and more / Around 200 works and 100 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

Reframing the Horizon of Crafts in Korea is an inquiry into how contemporary craft expanded and developed from the 1950s through the 1970s. Commemorating the centennial of the late Yoo Kangyoul (1920–1976), a pivotal figure in contemporary Korean craft, the exhibition focuses on the activities of Yoo Kangyoul and those of his colleagues and students. The exhibition introduces the traditional aesthetics and values inherited by craftsmen and examines the works resulting from exchanges and collaborations among artists who crossed genres, including painting, printmaking, architecture, and design, working in art as well as industrial fields. The works in this exhibition will present the way in which concepts of craft introduced from the West and Japan expanded with the development of Korean society. Following *Glimpse into Korean Modern Crafts* (1999), this exhibition will present a macroscopic view of the modern and contemporary history of Korean craft.

Korean Architecture and Design in 1980s-1990s: Olympic Effect

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: November 2020–March 2021 / MMCA Gwacheon
- Featured Artists: Around 50 architects and designers, including Kim Swoo Geun,

Kim Chung-up, Cho Young-Jae, and Kim Hyun

▲ Exhibition Overview

The MMCA examines Korean visual culture, which evolved rapidly through the 1980s and 1990s, as it relates to the Olympics. The 1988 Seoul Olympics were not simply an international event, but one that transformed the structure of Korean society and culture. In particular, the fields of architecture and design evolved on the foundations of technological, artistic, and industrial capacities established through the event. This exhibition examines works of varying scales across the overall visual culture, including urban development, environmental design, architecture, industrial design, and graphic design, which were triggered by the Seoul Olympics, and seeks to trace their significance. Widening the scope to include the periods before and after the event, covering the early 1980s through the late 1990s, the exhibition explores changes in Korean culture and society and scenes of new urban culture. The MMCA is collaborating with scholars on joint research and archiving and will be cataloguing materials submitted for the exhibition in an exhibition catalogue. The year 2020 marks the fourth summer Olympic Games to be held in Asia. The exhibition will be an opportunity to contemplate the meaning of the Olympics from the perspective of an Asian country.

3) In-depth research and fostering of Korean artists

Park Rehyun Retrospective

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: July–October 2020 / MMCA Deoksugung
- Featured Artists: Park Rehyun, Around 100 works and 100 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Park Rehyun (1920–1976), this exhibition journeys through the world of an artist whose life was dedicated to experimental art. Along with Chun Kyung-ja, Park Rehyun is considered one of the most prominent women painters of the 20th century. She is also known for leading Korea's art scene through the 1950s and 1960s with her husband Kim Kichang. Embracing abstract art in the 1950s, Park sought a new direction for Korean painting. In 1956, she rose to fame when she received two Presidential Awards, at the National Exhibition and the Korean Art Association Exhibition, in 1956. This exhibition will cast light on the image of an enthusiastic artist who adopted international art trends through heavy involvement in overseas exhibitions, moved to the United States at the age of 50, acquired new techniques, including printmaking, tapestry, and papier collé, and pushed the limits of Eastern painting. Special attention will be given to Park's overcoming the traditionally male-centric environment of ink and wash painting, as she considered art that is closely related to daily life and sought to blur the boundaries between technique and art. Park's achievements are a culmination of her agony and solitary struggle with her identity as a woman. The MMCA seeks to reexamine the significance of Park's achievements in the history of modern and contemporary art in Korea and reignite the discussion on women and art in the 20th century.

Lee Seung Jio

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: June–October 2020 / MMCA Gwacheon
- Featured Artists: Lee Seung Jio / Around 100 works and 50 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

The MMCA will host a retrospective of Lee Seung Jio (1941–1990), who revealed a new horizon after the era of informel with his exploration of basic forms and optical works. Lee Seung Jio was one of the main artists of the group Origin, which led geometric abstraction in 1962, when academic realism and impressionist works formed the mainstream of the Korean art scene. Until he died in 1990, Lee consistently worked on a series titled *Nucleus*, through which he continued experimenting with the essence of painting and constructed an original body of work using repetitive and tenacious brushwork that culminated in forms reminiscent of metal "pipes." By examining the resonance within the frames of Lee's paintings, this exhibition contemplates the significance of geometric abstraction in art history as a means of logical construction and internal reflection. The exhibition presents Lee Seung Jio's life and oeuvre, following the trajectory of an artist who attempted to overcome the finite nature of the painting space.

Lee Seung Taek

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: October 2020–February 2021 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Lee Seung Taek / Around 150 works and 100 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

The MMCA will host a retrospective of Lee Seung Taek, (b. 1932), a key figure of experimental art in Korea who played a pioneering role in Korean contemporary art. This exhibition looks back on the sixty-year career of the artist, who worked in various genres, including installation, objet d'art, painting, photography, land art, and performance art, experimenting endlessly to question existing art concepts and institutions. This exhibition examines the artist's original body of work and its significance in art history. Works considered include *Godret Stone* and other works in the "binding" series; *Wind, Burning Canvases Floating on the River*, and other works in the series of "non-sculptures" that incorporated natural phenomena such as fire, smoke, fog, wind, and sound in art; and *Earth Performance, Drawing Waves on Sand*, and other works in the series that intervened with space. The exhibition will explore early drawings, archived documents, and unpublished works and reexamine the artist's position through reproduction and restoration.

Korea Artist Prize 2020

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: October 2020–March 2021 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Four juried finalists (*To be announced in early February)
- Co-sponsors: MMCA, SBS Cultural Foundation

▲ Exhibition Overview

The annual Korean Artist Prize, co-sponsored by the MMCA and the SBS Cultural Foundation, was organized to support and foster artists who will present the Korean contemporary art scene with dynamism, vision, and alternative solutions. This year marks the 9th exhibition since its launch in 2012. Each year, selected artworks have garnered acclaim, leading new trends and discourses, and the Korean Artist Prize is recognized as a major award and exhibition program for Korean contemporary art. In the 2020 exhibition, four artists who were selected after discussion among jurors from Korea and abroad will unveil their new works in installation, photography, and film. The four selected artists will present works conceived for the Korea Artist Prize exhibition, and one finalist will be selected through a juried process during the exhibition period.

MMCA Hyundai Motor Series 2020

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: August 2020–January 2021 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: One artist selected by a jury (*to be announced in February)
- Sponsor: Hyundai Motor

▲ Exhibition Overview

The MMCA Hyundai Motor Series was launched to provide opportunities for established artists who have accumulated original bodies of work, giving them a chance to produce large-scale commissioned pieces, thus for their oeuvres to take a leap forward and to further invigorate Korean contemporary art. The Hyundai Motor Company has sponsored this annual project for ten years, selecting Lee Bul in 2014, Ahn Kyuchul in 2015, Kimsooja in 2016, Im Heungsoon in 2017, CHOIJEONGWHA in 2018, and Park Chankyong in 2019. Since 2015, the project has made notable achievements both in Korea and international art scene by its commissioned works travelling abroad, e.g., Lee Bul's exhibition at the Palais de Tokyo. The MMCA Hyundai Motor Series has been established itself as an important example of corporate sponsorship that seeks the mutual benefit of art and business, contributing to the betterment of Korean contemporary art.

Project # 2020

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: May 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Gangnambug, Seoul Queer Collective

▲ Exhibition Overview

A public contest that the MMCA launched in 2019 with full sponsorship from the Hyundai Motor Company, *Project #* is a program that discovers up-and-coming artists and creators. The project selects collaborative works without genre restrictions and provides long-term support for two teams selected each year. Project # 2020 will introduce projects by two teams, Gangnambug and Seoul Queer Collective, who were selected from 200 prospective participants.

Interpreting the Gangnam area as a kind of bug born in South Korea's development process, Gangnambug attempts to reexamine Gangnam's inherent problems, the perception of the area, and the values represented by it from multiple angles, so as to touch on various current issues of Korean society. Seoul Queer Collective will present a project that exposes spaces occupied by the so-called urban queer (i.e. genderqueer, elderly living in flophouses, homeless people, and female sex workers), who are being marginalized and edged out in the process of urban gentrification. Through the means of data maps, publications, and seminars, the group will address the hierarchy of urban spaces and the issues of spatial ownership.

4) Contextualization and specialization of collections

MMCA Permanent Collection 2020+

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: Ongoing from April 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Around 40 works by 40 artists, including Gu Bonung

▲ Exhibition Overview

A new exhibition of important works of Korean modern and contemporary art will be put on permanent display at MMCA Seoul. This exhibition was planned to meet continuing demand from in and outside of the art world for a permanent exhibition of works from the MMCA collection that present various aspects of Korean modern and contemporary art for people to enjoy at any time. Through around forty works that represent each period of modern and contemporary art, viewers will trace the stream of the history of Korean art from the 20th century. The MMCA hopes that this exhibition will restore balance to the programs at MMCA Seoul, which are largely focused on contemporary art, and broaden museum attendance. This exhibition was planned in close connection with the permanent exhibition that will open at MMCA Gwacheon and will be interlinked with the content of 300 Works from the MMCA Collection, a special publication for the museum's 50th anniversary, and *Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Art of Korea* (working title), scheduled for publication in 2020.

MMCA International Art Collection

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: October–December 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Elja-Liisa Ahtila, Laurent Grasso, and more many others (TBD)

▲ Exhibition Overview

This special exhibition of selected works of video, multimedia, installation and photography is composed mainly of works by international artists newly acquired by the MMCA. In particular, the exhibition aims to explore how the traditional and general subject of "nature" is expressed through various media in contemporary art around the world, and further, how the subject is expanded into a way of implicating contemporary and multilayered themes. The main exhibit, a work by Elja-Liisa Ahtila, is a video piece composed of six horizontally connected channels that reproduce the life-size image of a spruce tree. The result is a documentation of nature and its limitations. Through the piece, the viewer perceives technology as an extension of human visual senses, revealed in the act of filming. The title, *Vaakasuora*, means horizontal in Finnish. The large-scale video installation work will be on display for the first time since its acquisition by the MMCA.

Mapping Korean Modern and Contemporary Art

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: July 2020–July 2021 / MMCA Gwacheon
- Featured Artists: Kim Whanki, Lee Ufan, Yoo Youngkuk, Chang Ucchin, and more / Around 400 works and 200 documents

▲ Exhibition Overview

In connection with the general history of Korean art (1900–2020), *Mapping Korean Modern and Contemporary Art*, a permanent exhibition at MMCA Gwacheon, will examine the key topics in art history through the specific historical and social contexts of Korea, the reasons for their appearance, the courses they took, and their achievements and limitations. While previous exhibitions focused more on "how to display" history, this exhibition focuses on why certain keywords appeared in each period. Therefore, exemplary works from Korean art history will be displayed, accompanied by sources of social history and art history to provide context.

Organized through collaboration among experts in modern art, craft, photography, multimedia, architecture, painting, and sculpture, this exhibition is a comprehensive exposition of 120 years of Korean art history. This will serve as an accessible guide to Korea's modern and contemporary art and will enrich the narrative of Korean art history, along with the publication of an introductory text

and academic symposiums.

Conservator C's Day

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: May–October 2020 / MMCA Cheongju
- Featured Materials: Materials on conservation science, collections, new commissions and more

▲ Exhibition Overview

Conservator C's Day introduces the conservation and restoration phases of an artwork's life cycle—acquisition, exhibition, conservation, and restoration. Rather than the functions of a museum that people are quite familiar with, exhibition and collection, this exhibition tells the story of conservation science, which is often kept behind the veil. From its birth, an artwork undergoes damage and various other changes due to environmental and physical effects. An artwork is given new life through the hands of a conservator. The four generally discussed phases of life are birth, old age, sickness, and death, but conservation and restoration extends an artwork's life, forming a cycle of birth, old age, sickness, and rebirth. In contemporary art, this process goes beyond simply extension of life, because it imbues new meaning to the work. The central figure of this process, the conservator, forms a major axis of the exhibition. The viewer can approach conservation science by glimpsing a day in the life of the fictional character Conservator C. Taking a humanistic approach to conservation, the exhibition displays the daily life and concerns of a character who works to conserve and restore artworks, in conjunction with various relationships among artists, artworks, and audiences. This exhibition is an attempt to examine the science of conservation from the perspective of art and culture, focusing on the conservation and restoration of contemporary art. The letter C in the title stands for conservator, Cheongju, and "-ssi (-씨)" an honorific suffix in the Korean language.

MMCA Collection re-examined I《*'88 Seoul Olympics as world stage for the Olympiad of Art*》

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: November 2020–February 2021 / MMCA Cheongju
- Featured works: Works of international contemporary art donated for the Olympiad of Art in 1988 (sculpture and painting)

▲ Exhibition Overview

The 1988 Seoul Olympics was a nationwide festival that encompassed the people's desire for economic stimulus and cultural elevation. Under the banners of "festival of beauty," and "cultural Olympics," the Korean government executed various cultural policies, including founding the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Gwacheon, taking the international event as an opportunity to raise the nation's standards of art and culture. In particular, artists from over one hundred countries around the world participated in the *Olympiad of Art*, a large-scale international art event led by the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee with allocated funds of KRW 9 billion. *The International Contemporary Painting Exhibition* was held at the MMCA as part of the *Olympiad of Art*. This event was made exceptional by artists from over 100 countries across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa donating their works. Highlighting the gap between government-led cultural events and the experience of popular art and culture in the 1980s, this exhibition seeks to examine from various angles how the perception and understanding of "international art" informed the MMCA's collection policies.

5) International exchange and Asian discourse

Sun & Sea (Marina)

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: July 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, Lina Lapelytė

▲ Exhibition Overview

The MMCA has invited *Sun & Sea (Marina)*, a performance piece presented at the Lithuanian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019. At the beginning of this unusual opera, around twenty people in bathing suits are relaxing in the sun on a set with a manmade beach and a sun-like lighting fixture. The songs begin with trivial stories of individuals and lead eventually to the environmental problems people are facing globally. This piece carries the message that weakness is a characteristic not only of the human body, but also of nature, by contrasting the lackadaisical and beautiful beach scene with our fears and environmental problems. This summer, viewers in Seoul will have a chance to experience the lauded performance piece that won a Golden Lion for best national pavilion at the 2019 Venice Biennale.

2020 Asia Project—Looking for Another Family

▲ Details

- Dates/Location: April–July 2020 / MMCA Seoul
- Featured Artists: Around 20 artists (teams) based in Asia

▲ Exhibition Overview

Since 2017, MMCA has been running one of the museum's long-term programs, 'Asia Focused' and its first research project 'How little you know about me' launched in 2018. As the second edition of MMCA Asia project in 2020, we have focused on opening a public platform for various groups of artists and local communities working in the East and Southeast Asia, over the last few years. Building close connections through accommodating different local artist groups from each region is the main mission of the project and a wide range of programs will be opened to the public to realize its urgent issues. Today's society talks about the value of economic efficiency and high technology to justify dictatorial rules and eliminating each individual's value. It continuously revolves around our everyday lives and constantly regulating our perceptions. Raising questions and developing communication methods would be one of the first steps to realize current situation and release the tensions in our lives. For deeper observation, we will also ask this question 'so what's the next?' and it is about looking for another family to share the feelings and seek for a way to build consistent network so the issues can keep appearing on the surface.

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.

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