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If cultural engagement is primarily a sensory connect, then it presupposes that it is the synthesis of perception and feeling that creates meaning. We perceive and feel or vice versa, simultaneously, with reason and logic kicking in only much later in the process. It is possible for adults, as well as for children, to receive any number of sensory impressions and be none the richer. Sense impressions are not enough by themselves, for the mind needs education and training to be able to discriminate and appreciate, to distinguish, to categorize and to relate new information to what one already knows. This process is the beginning of conscious knowledge with intelligence working in a concentrated way to order impressions produced by the senses. What is formed in a split second a first impression triggers a series of processes that result in cognition and expression. Cultural theorists speak of conscious awareness, a process of recognizing what is going on inside and out, the effects of decisions and actions and the interaction between a complex array of factors and forces, and of conscious culture, which allows for individual and collective reflection and explicit articulation of what we see or wonder as we reflect. Both cultural awareness and conscious culture are the basis of cultural and cross-cultural engagement, determining how we perceive, feel and connect.

In this issue of focus, read about the many examples of engaging and connecting cross-culturally across multiple genres. This quarter, we continue to examine the contemporary relevance of tradition and the resultant expressions in theatre, music, dance, film, painting and calligraphy. After a rousing reception in India this August, Hamlet_Avatar, our Indo-Korean theatre production, opens at the prestigious Seoul Performing Arts Festival in October 2015. The production, an adaptation of the Shakespearean original, is directed by Hyoung-taek Limb, Artistic Director of Seoul Factory and co-produced by InKo Centre and Seoul Factory with support from Arts Council Korea. Limb’s Hamlet is a dramatic re-telling, interlacing Indian and Korean music, dance and theatre vocabularies with the concept of ‘avatar’ as the underlying theme. The annual Dance and Choreography residency presented in association with Arts Council Korea and Hongeun Art Space continues, with two talented young Indian dancers in residence at Hongeun Art Space in Seoul for a four-week residency, starting in October 2015. The residency offers time, space and resources to develop new work that will be presented at the end of the residency period. Also in October, two of our Korean Language students will visit Seoul to participate in The King Sejong Institute Learners’ Programme, an annual event to which over a hundred students are invited from across the world. In November, Black String, a critically acclaimed ensemble of four talented musicians premiere in India with performances in Chennai, Kochi and Kolkata presented in association with Korean and Indian partners. The performance focuses on improvisation as an important aspect of Korean traditional music and attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and its unique musical idiom. Also, in November, we present, in association with Indian Art Museum, Seoul and Lalit Kala Akademi, the third edition of Emerging Canvas, a series that aims to showcase the work of talented, emerging artists from India and Korea. Visit The Gallery @ InKo Centre for two exhibitions this quarter - an Indo-Korean calligraphy exhibition and an exhibition of paintings, by 5 acclaimed Korean artists. Join us for the ongoing edition of Heart of Matter, a series of reflective conversations that dwell on holistic living, wellness, history, philosophy, literature, art and culture, as lived experiences rather than theoretical abstractions. Contemporary Korean films, varying in mood, tone and technique, will be showcased at the Third Eye Asian Film Festival in December at Mumbai. The third edition of the Taehon Festival, a unique Taekwondo Fellowship Tournament returns in December 2015, drawing in participants from across South India.

Read about what’s trending @ InKo Centre and about our weekly and monthly offer of Language classes, Yoga, Taekwondo and Calligraphy at the Centre.

I look forward to greeting you at our events and courses, to receiving your feedback and to deepening this dialogue with your participation and support.

Rathi Jafer
Director, InKo Centre
World-music band, Black String was founded in 2011 as part of a government-sponsored Korea-UK cultural exchange program titled “UK Connection” project. The band consists of Yoon-jeong Heo (Geomungo; Six-string zither), Aram Lee (Daegum; Large bamboo flute), Jean Oh (Jazz guitar).

The band made its debut at the Jarasum International Jazz Festival (Korea) and at the London Jazz Festival (UK) in 2012 collaborating with UK artists such as Tim Garland (Saxophone), John Turville (Piano/Keys), Asaf Sirkis (Drums) and Gwilym Simcock (Piano). Since then the band has expanded their musical repertoire by teaming up with prominent Korean artists such as Min-su Kang (Korean Traditional Percussions and vocal), Dongjin Shin (Drums & Percussion), Bora Kim (Korean Traditional Vocal), Min wang Hwang (Ajaeng, Korean Traditional Percussion).

Black String aims to create a new sound that internalises a variety of musical expressions in traditional music, as well as harmonises with other expressions in Jazz and World music. The resultant new sound is reinterpreted by artists who embrace traditional music as well as jazz, reflecting composed and improvised creations. The performance focuses on improvisation as an important aspect of Korean traditional music and attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and its unique musical idiom. This critically acclaimed Korean group premieres in India in November 2015.

Performances/Awards to date:

2012  London Jazz Festival (U.K.)
      Jazz Topad (Poland)
2013  Oslo World Music Festival (Norway) Penang Island Jazz Festival
      (Malaysia)
2014  Jarasum International Jazz Festival (Republic of Korea)
      Selected as a PAMS CHOICE by KAMS (Republic of Korea)
      Jazz Korea(Germany)
      2015 Clandestino Festival (Sweden) National Museum of
      Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea) <The Seoul
      Connection> at KORZO (Netherlands) <Black String>
      at Casa da Musica (Portugal)
Leader of Black String, **Yoon-jeong Heo** is an incredibly talented Geomungo player and composer. She is interested in exploring the possibilities of extending the range of the Geomungo to bring together different genres ranging from Korean traditional music, contemporary music and improvisation she is the founder and leader of World music project band “Tori Ensemble” which was selected at the 2010 PAMS Showcase and was invited as the opening concert to the 2010 WOMEX, 2011 WOMAD UK, 2012 WOMAD AU, and 2012 WOMAD NZ. “Black String” is her new project after “Tori Ensemble”. Yoon-jeong Heo recently received The Brand Laureate - International Brand Personality Award (2013) which is a prestigious award presented to leaders who have significantly contributed to the development of their organizations, countries or the world at large. She was recently was chosen as “Artist of the Year” at the Yeowooolk Festival 2015, which is an important Korean Traditional Music Festival.

**The following musicians will perform in India as part of the Black String ensemble in November 2015:**

- **Jean Oh**, is a guitarist who has studied in Seoul, Paris and New York. Since the beginning of his professional career, he has played on several commercially released recordings and toured throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, South America, Philippine, Russia. He has, on several occasions, shared the stage with George Garzone, John Lockwood, Jeff Hirshfield, Billy Drummond, Ralph Alessi, Ron McClure, Mike Richmond, Miroslav Vitous and several other acclaimed musicians. Recently, he released his second album “A Portrait with Yesterday”.

- **Aram Lee** is a daegeum player and composer who has a very busy career including a stint as director of Korean Traditional Music Group ‘NaMu’ and the Multi National Theatre ‘Unikaji’. He has participated in a number of original sound tracks for Korean TV dramas and movies. He has received numerous awards such as Donga Korean Music Competition, PADA (Play and Dance Art Festival). He was selected as Person of Creative Talent from KOCCA as well as Young Artist Frontier by Arts Council Korea at 2013.

- **Dongjin Shin** is a skilled percussionist and plays both the Western drums and Korean traditional percussion.

- **Min Wang Hwang** is an acclaimed Korean traditional percussionist and Ajaeng player.

**Performance dates in India**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tr>
<td>22 November</td>
<td>Kochi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 November</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We thank our partners in Korea and India who have supported the premiere of Black String in India:

**PAMS (Performing Arts Market in Seoul)**

PAMS (Performing Arts Market in Seoul) is an annual international performing arts market, where members of the industry, including artists, arts groups, managers, theater programmers, festival artistic directors and performance planners, can gather together in one place, share artistic visions and exchange information on performance art trends. PAMS was established in 2005 with the support of the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to promote the development of international distribution channels for Korean performing arts.

**KAMS (Korea Arts Management Service)**

KAMS (Korea Arts Management Service) was established in January 2006 as a non-profit, public foundation for the development of Korean performing arts. With support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, KAMS offers multi-faceted assistance that aims to bolster the sustainability of arts groups and organizations, while strengthening their competitive advantages by developing diverse and effective support systems or more efficient arts management. KAMS enables performing arts companies in Korea to broaden their horizons and presence by evaluating their management strategy, offering consulting services, and expanding their market capability through innovative distribution networks in domestic and overseas markets.

**Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST)**

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism develops and implements a wide range of policies to promote culture, arts, sports, tourism and religion so as to provide cultural opportunities to the public. A total of 30 information officers are dispatched by the Ministry to 26 Korean Cultural Centers in 21 countries. www.korea.net, the government’s official multilingual website, is run by the Ministry’s major subsidiary, the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS).

**Consulate General of the Republic of Korea**

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai, aims to foster close and mutually beneficial relations between South Korea and India, particularly in the fields of trade, investments, tourism and people-to-people relations. The Consulate also services the consular requirements of the growing Korean community in South India and extends assistance to nationals under its jurisdiction- i.e. in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

**Kolkata International Music Festival**

Song of Soul presents the Kolkata International Music Festival, an annual festival to celebrate the creativity of cultures and individuals from across India and the globe. Be it folk, Jazz, Fusion, Classical or World Music, KIMF promises to present the best of these genres. KIMF believes in the power of art to transform life. The Festival has been recognised by several international organisations and has extended support to more than 1800 rural artists in India.

**Rajagiri Group**

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, together with its sister educational concerns, owes its existence to the CMI fathers, the first ever indigenous religious congregation for men in the Syrian Catholic tradition of Christianity in India. The vision of Rajagiri is “to become a centre par excellence of learning, unique in experience, value based in approach and pioneering in efforts for enriching and fulfilling life”. Rajagiri was declared as an autonomous institution by the UGC last year, a landmark decision in the educational history of Kerala state. Rajagiri’s Centre for Business Studies has consistently been ranked by Outlook, Competition Success Review, Business India, Business World, The Week and India Today magazines, as one of the Best B-Schools in the country. Rajagiri School of Social Work is a pioneer in professional Social Work education in South India.
Hamlet_Avataar in Seoul

Following a rousing reception at the Indian premiere in August 2015, Hamlet_Avataar, the Indo-Korean theatre production, developed by Seoul Factory and InKo Centre with support from Arts Council Korea, will be presented at the prestigious Seoul Performing Arts Festival from 8-11 October in Seoul, Korea.

The production is a dramatic re-telling of the Shakespearean original interlaced with Indian and Korean music, dance and theatre vocabularies, with the concept of ‘avatar’ as the underlying theme. Acclaimed dancer Astad Deboo and Baul singer, Parvathy Baul join a Korean cast and crew led by Artistic Director, Hyoung-taek Limb to present this unique production. By confronting, questioning and engaging with the inevitability of opposites, the production examines the critical role of theatre to brave existential angst and to find a positive meaning in the here and now.
The Perfume of Ink: An Indo-Korean Calligraphy exhibition

28 October to 15 November 2015

This exhibition which includes the work of 6 Indian and 10 Korean artists is presented by InKo Centre, in association with the Korea Calligraphy Association and the Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

Indian Artists

- Irshad Hussain farooqi
- Qamar Dagar
- Poospati Parameshw Raju
- Nikheel Aphale

Korean Artists

- Dharmesh Vikramshin Jadeja
- Qamar Dagar
- Yoon Jum-Yong
- Jeon Myung-Ok
- Byun Young-Moon
- Seo Jea-Gyung
- Song Dong-Ok
- Song Hyun-Soo
- Lee Jong-Gyun
- Jung Da-Byung
- Choi Sung-II
- Ham Kyung-Ran

Presented in association with:
Korean Blue Chip Artists: An exhibition of paintings by 5 acclaimed Korean artists

18 November to 26 December 2015

This exhibition, which showcases the work of 5 senior, acclaimed artists from Korea, is presented by InKo Centre in association with K-Art, Busan, Korea.

Presented in association with:

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**Jung, Young Mo**

Spring of Cheonji Lake in Mt. Baekdu
91x73cm
Mixed Media on Jangji

**Lee Hee Don**

Contributory cause
60.6 x 72.7cm
Mixed Media on Canvas

**Ju Tae Seok**

Nature Image
72.7x60.6cm
Acrylic on Canvas

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**Yun Hyung Sun**

Invitation to Nature
72.7X60.6cm
Crystal powder, Chinese ink.
Powder Colour on Canvas

**Lee Kang Hwa**

Conversation
65x91 cm
Mixed Media on Canvas
InKo Centre, Arts Council Korea (ARKO) and Seoul Art Space Hongeun, are delighted to continue supporting an annual Choreography Residency Programme at the Hongeun Art Space in Seoul, Korea. Keya D’Souza and Riya Mandal, two young, contemporary dancers have been selected as the choreographers-in-residence at Hongeun Art Space in Korea from 11 October to 8 November 2015.

**Hongeun Art Space**

Hongeun Art Space Hongeun opened in 2011 with an aim to support dancers, choreographers and visual artists. In addition, outreach programmes are regularly conducted in order to communicate with the local community. Hongeun Art Space is Seoul’s eleventh creative space.

The centre plays a pivotal role as a reputable and specialized dance residency by nurturing, supporting and presenting new choreographers and by supporting collaborative possibilities amongst artists of various dance-related genres. It also serves as a bridge to link dance—which is still a relatively unfamiliar cultural territory—and the public. In addition, the centre has planned and operated a variety of cultural arts programmes in collaboration with local residents and towns in order to build a shared vocabulary and to nurture local cultural communities.

The residency will offer Keya D’Souza and Riya Mandal, time, space and resources to develop new work which will be presented at the end of the residency period. The residency will also be an opportunity for the dancers to participate in or to lead dance workshops; to interact with dance practitioners and to interact with the local community.

Bangalore-based Keya D’Souza has worked as a repertory dancer and Instructor with The Delhi Music Theatre, with the Danceworx Performing Arts Company in Mumbai as a dancer, instructor and choreographer and as a repertory dancer with The Attakkalari Centre of Movement Arts, Bangalore.

During the residency, she wishes to explore an exchange of cultures, traditions and lifestyles, that could result in the discovery of a unique vocabulary of movement which is not defined by a singular culture but encompasses a cross-cultural system of communication.

Delhi-based Riya Mandal is a performer, choreographer and a movement therapist. She started training as a Kathak dancer at the age of 12. After 5 years of rigorous classical training, she started exploring jazz and modern techniques in 2008. She has also been formally trained in various forms like Kalaripayattu, Chhau, Improvisation and Composition, release technique and floor work.

Her degree in psychology sparked her interest in closely examining the mechanics of human behaviour, which reflects in her work as an artist.

**Arts Council (ARKO)**

Arts Council Korea was established to promote creativity and enjoyment of the art by supporting diverse arts and cultural activities in Korea. The Council consists of eleven dedicated professionals of the cultural and art sector in Korea. The Arts Council also places emphasis on the establishment of arts infrastructure. It facilitates the rise of practice-oriented policy implementation in line with the increasingly sophisticated cultural environment of Korea.
HEART of matter

This is a series of reflective conversations that dwell on holistic living, wellness, history, philosophy, literature, art and culture. Presented by InKo Centre as quarterly editions, in association with partner organisations, these direct and inspirational conversations will focus on lived experience rather than theoretical abstractions.

We invite you to explore what lies at the heart of matter, what matters most and why.

Celebrated artist, raconteur and writer Manohar Devadoss is our Special Guest in Edition Two of Heart of Matter – Happiness Conversations, curated by Vaani Anand & AVIS Viswanathan.

About our special guest: Mano Devadoss

Mano personifies life’s simplest and most beautiful truth that while problems can often impoverish you, financially, physically and emotionally; they always enrich your soul.

That Mano had a fairy tale wedding with Mahema, the discovery within a few years of their marriage that Mano had a progressive degenerative eye condition that was to eventually result in total loss of sight, the tragic road accident that rendered Mahema a quadriplegic and her subsequent confinement to a wheelchair for the rest of her life and how Mano and Mahema lived together for 35 years loving and caring for each other, while raising their only child Sujatha, are well-known and oft quoted as examples of singular courage and determination in the face of adversity. What is less known perhaps is what kept Mano centred – then and now. As a compassionate companion to Mahema and as good parent to Sujatha, what kept him going? What role has art played in his life? How does Mano manage to deal with his physically debilitating condition and yet remain above it? And, how has he come to terms with life and yet, continue to live life on his own terms?

About the Curators - Vaani Anand & AVIS Viswanathan

As curators, Vaani & AVIS will engage the guests in sharing their stories and their learnings from Life about the concept of happiness. Vaani & AVIS are Life Coaches and Happiness Curators. AVIS has also written a Book, “Fall Like A Rose Petal”, in which he shares the spiritual lessons of happiness and contentment that he and his family have learnt from living through a bankruptcy, braving fear and pennilessness. The core idea of this event is to remind people that Life is a limited period offer, a gift that we should cherish and not squander.

At 6.30 pm on Saturday, 7 November 2015, at InKo Centre.
The Emerging Canvas series is an annual exhibition, presented in India and in Korea respectively, association with Indian Art Museum in Seoul and the Lalit Kala Akademi in Chennai to showcase the work of talented, emerging young artists from both countries.

**5-15 November**
**at Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Centre, Chennai.**

### Korean Artists

**Cho Jae-na**
Bachelor’s Degree in Painting, Incheon Catholic University College of Fine Art & Design
Master’s Degree in Painting, Incheon Catholic University

**Hwang Min-Sun**
M.A. Ewha Womans University, Department of Painting 2012.
Graduated from Ewha Womans University, Department of Painting 2012.

**Jang Ji-hye**
2014 B. F. A in Printmaking, Chugye University for the Arts, Seoul
2015 M. F. A in Printmaking, Chugye University for the Arts, Seoul

**Kang Ji-hyoung**
B.F.A Hongik University, Seoul 2015

**Kim Seon-yong**
Currently pursuing a to the Master’s course at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Gachon University.
2015 Graduated from Dept. of Oriental Painting, College of Fine Arts, Gachon University

**Kim Soo-young**
2012 Bachelors in Fine Art, Ewha Womans University
2015 Graduate School, Ewha Women’s University (Fine Art)

**Lee Da-yeon**
B.A. Fine Art, SookMyung Women’s University
M.A. Fine Art, SookMyung Women’s University

**Lee Hyun-hee**
2009 Graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, ChuGye University for Art.
Majored in Western Painting

**Moon Sung-don**
2007 present, Hongik University (Department of Painting, Art College)
Seoul, Korea

**RyuHee-Jeong**
2013 B.FA Sookmyung Women’s University
Currently studying for Master’s at Sookmyung Women’s University

**Ryu Sun-ho**
2010-2015 ChuGye University for the Arts, Seoul, Korea
Indian Artists

K. Yuvaraj
2007: Bachelor of Fine Arts (Ceramic), Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.
2010: Master of Fine Arts (Ceramic), Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.

Vijaya Kumar. A

Kumaresan Selvaraj
BFA: 2005 Painting
First Class Madras University, Government College of Fine Arts Chennai.
Area(s) of Specialization:
Painting, Photography, Printing, sculpture and Installation Art

S. Pottrarasan
Bachelor of Fine Arts: Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.
Master of Fine Arts: Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.

Thryambaka Karthik

G. Gurunathan
2011: M.F.A Painting
College of Fine Arts, Madras University

Selva Senthil Kumar
B.Sc. Maths: Chennai University
B.FA DMS LKMS College, Mysore

M. Koilpichai Prabakar

A. Vasudevan

Emerging Canvas III is presented by InKo Centre in association with:

Indian Art Museum
Hi! I’m Darshna, I have completed my post-graduation at Stella Maris College and I’m currently preparing for a competitive exam. I have been interested in Korean culture since 2010. So when I heard that there were Korean language classes taking place in InKo Centre I rushed to join and I have been a student of InKo since January 2012. InKo Centre has given me one of the best experiences in learning the language and the culture of Korea.

I am extremely grateful to The King Sejong Institute Foundation and InKo Centre for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the culture of Korea first hand through The 2015 Korean Cultural Experience Program for King Sejong Institute Learners. When I heard that I had been one of the students selected to go to Korea this year, I started jumping in the classroom in absolute joy along with my fellow classmates and my teacher. I’m thankful to my teacher, Ms. Jinok Jung, for her wonderful teaching which has enriched my knowledge of the Korean language and culture.

Over a 100 students selected from the Sejong Institutes from all over the world will be attending this annual event conducted by The King Sejong Institute Foundation from the 6-13 October 2015. A lot of cultural events have been planned by the Institute for the participants. There will be training classes for Kpop dancing and singing, Taekwondo, traditional fan dance (Buchaechum), tambourine dance (Sogochum) and Samulnori. There will also be a special event on Hangul Day which falls on 9 October. On the same day, a World Food Festival has also been planned. More excitement will follow as we will be taken to Jeonju, which is a place of great historical significance. And the closing ceremony will feature the participants performing the arts that they will learn during the entire program. I’m looking forward to what I hope will be one of the most delightful experiences I will ever have!

Anneonghaseyo!!! I am Bhavani Ravichandran, a home maker from Chennai, India. My daughter is into K-pop and everything Korean. We came to know of InKo Centre through the newspaper and as my daughter was busy with her MBBS degree she wanted me to join the language classes in her stead, although it turned out to become something that I’m very passionate about. Now I’m doing the Intermediate level in Korean language.

The curriculum provided by King Sejong Institute is unique and easy to follow. I am a Yoga practitioner and I’m grateful for having been invited by King Sejong Institute Foundation to speak a few words on Yoga. I am really elated to travel to South Korea to attend The 2015 Korean Culture Study for King Sejong Institute Learners. Nearly 150 students from various countries have been selected to participate in this program from the 6th to the 13th of October. I’m hoping to have a wonderful experience in Korea and I wish to thank everyone who has been directly or indirectly responsible for my selection.
태훈

3rd Tae Hon Festival

A unique Taekwondo Fellowship Tournament in South India

5,6 December 2015

The tournament aims to celebrate the spirit of taekwondo as both sport and philosophy and we welcome applications in the Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior categories.

For further enquiries, please contact
InKo Centre - +91 44 24361224 / 9940139100 or write to enquiries@inkocentre.org
Contemporary Korean Films at
The Third Eye Asian Film Festival, Mumbai

InKo Centre is delighted to present the following package of contemporary Korean films, varying in mood, tone and technique, at the 14th Third Eye Asian Film Festival in Mumbai from 24 - 31 December 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DIRECTOR</th>
<th>YEAR OF RELEASE</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Set Me Free</td>
<td>Kim TaeYong</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montage</td>
<td>Jeong Keun Seob</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Sunhi</td>
<td>Hong Sang-soo</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppermint Candy</td>
<td>Lee Chang Dong</td>
<td>1999</td>
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Synopsis

Set Me Free
Directed By Kim Taeyong
Yeongjae is a high school student who grows up at “Isaac’s Home”, a group home that he was placed in as a child to avoid his immature and reckless father.

Montage
Directed By Jeong Keun Seob
A kidnapper disappeared 15 years ago without a trace. Five days before the statute of limitations for the case expires, someone anonymously leaves a flower at the crime scene. What unravels in this murder mystery is as surprising as it is compelling.

Our Sunhi
Directed By Hong Sang-soo
Korean auteur Hong Sang-soo’s latest film, Our Sunhi follows an aspiring young filmmaker who becomes the object of desire for three very different men, in this smart, nuanced comedy.

Peppermint Candy
Directed By Lee Chang Dong
The film starts with the suicide of the protagonist and uses reverse chronology to depict some of the key events of the past 20 years of his life that led to his death.

About The Third Eye Asian Film Festival
The 14th Third Eye Asian Film Festival is the only festival in India that promotes Asian Cinema. The week-long festival will screen 60 feature films and 40 short films. The Festival will have a separate section to commemorate the artistic excellence of Satyajit Ray and veteran film makers Debaki Bose, V Shantaram, Shyam Benegal and Adoor Gopalkrishnan. The 14th edition will introduce a new section of films by Women Film Makers.
The Craft Shop @ InKo Centre, offers handcrafted gift items, an array of handmade Hanji paper and interesting bric-a-bracs. Also on offer is a unique Korean gift-wrapping counter with paper and silk options with subtle, beautiful finishing touches.

Touch, feel and enjoy the gift of harmony and balance…

The History Club exclusively for Korean residents in Chennai, aims to introduce aspects of Indian tradition, culture and history. The members of the club meet every Monday at InKo Centre. Interactive sessions include an introduction to ancient Indian architectural monuments, historical sites, textiles, art, craft, cuisine, spices and other topics pertaining to everyday life in India, as well as visits to places of interest in and around the city of Chennai.

To register for these courses or for information regarding our regular Korean and English language classes, Taekwondo and Yoga courses, please contact:

T: 044 26361224  E: enquiries@inkocentre.org
or visit InKo Centre, No: 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, Chennai-600 028.
Starting young: a library for toddlers

Young children in a library read books with their family members while crawling or rolling over the floor warmed by an ondol, Korea's traditional under-floor heating system.

While some people read books under the shade of the trees in the garden, others take part in interesting cultural activities or watch a short theatrical performance.

This is the Dobong Miracle Library in Dobong-gu District, in northern Seoul. All the furniture and equipment at the library, including chairs, desks, bookshelves and even the toilets, were designed to suit toddlers who prefer crawling around the room rather than sitting still on a chair.

The library’s collection has about 20,000 books in various genres for children, ranging from literature, history, nature, science, the environment, geography, picture books and even comic books. Its facilities include reading rooms that target each class of visitors: infants, toddlers, children, teenagers and adults. The library also has outdoor book-reading areas in the garden and a roof top garden, as well as a nursing room and a nap room.

The library was jointly built by the non-governmental organization Citizen Action For Reading and the Dobong District government. It is the 12th of its kind established in Korea so far.
Gyeongju to be reborn as the start of the ‘Cultural Silk Road’

A festival designed to connect all the Eurasian nations that lie along the Silk Road will be held in Gyeongju, in South Gyeongsang Province. Silk Road Gyeongju 2015, an event to shed new light on the traditional Silk Road trade route, will be held at the Gyeongju World Culture Expo Park and surrounding areas in Gyeongju until 18 October 2015.

The Silk Road-themed event aims to shed new light on Eurasian civilizations and the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C.-A.D. 935). It hopes to promote the city of Gyeongju as the starting point of a cultural Silk Road. The purpose of the event is to go beyond the traditional concept of the Silk Road caravan route and to help Gyeongju become the hub for a new era of IT and cultural exchange.

Over 10,000 people, including 1,500 non-Koreans from 40 countries, are expected to participate in the festival. There will be 30 programs along the main themes of the festival, including “Encounter of Civilizations,” “Silla, the Golden Kingdom” and “Live Experience.” The “Silk Road Grand Bazaar,” one of the highlights of the “Encounter of Civilizations” section, will feature art from the countries that lie along the maritime Silk Road, including Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Thailand, and nations that are located in the deserts and grasslands of Central Asia, including China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan. In all, 19 nations will take part in the event. The “Silk Road Grand Bazaar” will be formed around a traditional street in a tea market and feature authentic regional food and handmade souvenirs. In addition, various traditional performances and puppet shows will take place to help visitors learn about different cultures and societies.

Another highlight is the “Silk Road Parade.” It includes performances
by Turkey’s MehterMarsi Ottoman Military Band and bands that use traditional instruments.

The “Silk Road Odyssey” is a fantasy-filled desert journey to uncover awe-inspiring tales hidden along the Silk Road trade route. Visitors will be able to experience a fantasy world featuring mythical animals and the stories of the Arabian “1,001 Nights.”

Under the theme “Silla, the Golden Kingdom,” visitors will be able to learn about major trends in Silla arts throughout the kingdom’s existence. As part of this, the Gyeongju National Museum is offering people an opportunity to view first-hand Silla’s artifacts and heritage in the special “Arts of Silla” exhibit that will run through Nov. 1. It is a reintroduction of artifacts shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York’s 2013 exhibit “Silla, Korea’s Golden Kingdom.” Visitors can see 650 golden artifacts, including the Gilt-bronze Maitreya in Meditation (National Treasure No. 83).

There will be a chance to experience a 3-D virtual reality tour of the Seokguram grotto using head mounted displays (HMD) at the Gyeongju World Culture Expo Park. The non-verbal act “Basilla,” currently underway at the Gyeongju World Culture Expo Park, is based on the epic Persian poem “Kush Nama”. The performance sheds new light on Silla’s cultural exchanges with various ancient nations and it portrays the love story of a Silla princess and a Persian prince.

“The Illumination Show” is a multimedia show that casts lights and 3-D images against the backdrop of the Gyeongju Tower and the Wangguyeong Forest. In addition, various non-verbal percussion and dance performances, such as Nanta, Drumcat, Bibob and Jump, will be presented.
Soju, Korea’s representative liquor

For many Koreans, something is missing without soju especially when there is a bowl of hot, boiling kimchi stew on the table or a large plate of pork belly in front of them. There are many reasons that people drink soju. Some enjoy getting drunk with close friends. Others drink soju to wash away their fatigue and stress. The liquor is also popular because it goes well with many dishes. Soju accounts for nearly 40 percent of the total alcohol consumed by people in Korea each year, according to a recent study. Though Koreans drink more beer than soju in terms of absolute volume, soju remains the most popular liquor when comparing volume and alcohol percentage.

It was only recently that soju became the popular drink that it is today. In ancient times, people drank unrefined rice wine and clear rice wine. People have enjoyed drinking unrefined rice wine ever since the Three Kingdoms of Korea (57 B.C.-A.D. 668) when people started brewing liquor using yeast. Mongolia invaded the Korean Peninsula during Goryeo times (918-1392) and they brought with them the tradition of making soju. The Mongolian army was stationed in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province at the time and the tradition spread across the area. This is the origin of the famous Andong Soju.

Andong Soju is a distilled liquor. However, the most common type of soju that most people drink these days is a diluted spirit. Molasses is created from rice, barley and sweet potatoes. Then, the molasses is put into a distiller to produce pure alcohol. Various additives are put into the mixture and water is added to the pure alcohol to adjust the alcohol percentage.

Soju became a popular mainstream liquor in Korea in the mid-1970s. With the emergence of such diluted sojus, regional soju brands started taking root in their respective areas: Jinro in Seoul, Charm in Daegu and Bohae in Gwangju. Unrefined rice wine, including makgeolli, accounted for 80 percent of the country’s total alcohol consumption in the 1970s, but the consumption of unrefined wine dropped sharply and soju became the most popular liquor in the 1980s.

Until the late 1990s, there was regulation in the local soju industry that only one company was allowed to produce soju in each city or province. Half of each company’s production had to be consumed in the respective city or province. As a result, Jinro dominated the Seoul metropolitan area while Daesun Distilling nearly monopolized Busan. Muhak has kept a stronghold in Gyeongsangnam-do Province and Bohae dominated Jeollanam-do Province. The regulation was abolished in 1996, but regional soju brands are still very popular in their respective cities and provinces.

There are many types of soju, but the most notable trend in the market is the lowering of alcohol content. Soju’s average alcohol content was 25 percent. It is currently down to 14 percent, close to the 12 percent common in red wine. The growing popularity of soju with low alcohol content is related to the rise in health-conscious consumption and the demand for environmentally friendly food. Consumers care more about their health and they tend to seek mild liquors that they can sip and enjoy, rather than strong liquors that just intoxicate! One such is Lotte Chilsung Beverage’s Sunhari Chum-Churum, a new type of “soju cocktail.” It has 14 percent alcohol and contains natural citrus content with a sweet taste.
**Event**

**October**

08: 11: Hamlet_Avatar: an Indo-Korean Theatre production at the Seoul Performing Arts Festival, Korea.

11 October - 8 November: Choreography residency
Hongeun Art Space, Seoul, Korea

The Gallery @ InKo Centre, Chennai

**November**

05 - 15: Emerging Canvas III
Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Chennai

07: Heart of Matter
InKo Centre, Chennai

Chennai

Kochi

26: Performance-Black String: Contemporary Korean Music
Kolkata

18 November - 26 December: Korean Blue Chip Artists: an exhibition of paintings by 5 Korean artists
The Gallery @ InKo Centre, Chennai

**December**

5-6: 3rd Tae Hon Festival
Chennai

24-31: Contemporary Korean Films at the 14th Third Eye Film Festival, Mumbai.

**Language**

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