

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2013
The Culture and Arts of Korea and Early Japan
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In the Midst of It All: Postwar Korean Art, 1953-1988
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Themes

I. What is Contemporary Art?

The notion of contemporary art is defined very differently in Korea than in other East Asian countries. Although commonly translated into English as “modern art” or “contemporary art,” the phrase “hyondae misul” has changed dramatically since the 1930s when it first appeared in visual art writing.

II. Construction and Reconstruction

The years 1953 and 1988 serve as important bookends; 1953 was the provision end of the Korean War while in 1988, South Korea hosted the Summer Olympics, its de facto coming-out party to the world.

III. Materiality

In an era that seemed overly determined by external social, political, and economic pressures, many artists turned to materiality as a way of dealing with such questions as abstraction, the place of ink painting, the reconstruction (and refusal) of tradition, and experimentation with different media as a response to the pressures brought to bear on culture by the accelerated pace of information circulation and urbanization.

IV. Communication

Amidst the political and social trauma brought on by the Gwangju Uprising of 1980, artists grappled with the question of what it meant to communicate. Especially invested were those artists classified under the heading of “Minjung” (roughly, “people’s” art).

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Slide List

1. Lee Quae-dae, *Self Portrait in Robe*, c. 1948-1949, oil on canvas, 72 x 60 cm.
2. Chang Woo-sung, *Portrait of the Virgin Mary and Jesus*, 1949, ink and color on paper, 130 x 88 cm.
3. Chang Woo-sung, *Young Generation*, 1956, ink and color on Korean paper, 212 x 160 cm.
4. Kwon Young-woo, *Fantasy on the Seashore*, 1958, ink and color on paper, 120 x 120 cm.
5. Yi Hae-sun, *In the Vicinity of a Thermolectric Power Plant, Tangilli, Seoul*, ca. 1950s., silver gelatin print
6. Du-sun, *Reconstruction*, c. 1960s, silver gelatin print
7. Sejong-ro, downtown Seoul (above)-1966 (left)-1974
8. Lee Ungno, *Exultation*, 1958, ink and light color on paper, 134 x 67.5 cm.
9. Park Bong-su, *Fighting Roosters*, 1948, ink on paper.
10. Installation view of the “Wall Exhibition,” 1960, Seoul
11. Park Seobo, *No. 1*, 1957-1958, oil on canvas, 95 x 82 cm.
12. (left)-cover of *Sin Misul*, 1958; (right)-cover of *Choson Misul*, 1958
13. Suh Se-ok, *Work*, 1962, ink on *hanji*, 176 x 106 cm.
14. Kwon Young-woo, (left)- 65-8, 1965, *hanji* and kraft paper on plywood, 230 x 175 cm; (right)-65-9, 1965, *hanji* and kraft paper on plywood, 130 x 110 cm.

15. Kwon Young-woo, (left)-*Untitled*, 1973, *hanji* on plywood, 162 x 122 cm; (right)-photograph of Kwon Young-woo, published in the *Chugan Kyŏngnyang*, June 2, 1974
16. Kim Whanki *Where, and in What Form, Shall We Meet Again?*, 16-IV-70 #166, 1970, oil on cotton, 232 x 172 cm.
17. Kim Whanki painting *Ten Thousand Things*, New York, 1973
18. Yun Hyongkeun (left)-*Umber Blue*, 1973, oil on canvas, 130 x 45 cm; (right)-*Umber Blue*, 1975, oil on canvas, 130 x 97 cm.
19. Kim Young-ja, *Match 111*, 1967, 90 x 130 x 130 cm, painted wood (remade 2001)
20. Chung Kang-ja, c. late 1960s
21. Lee Seung-taek, *Hair*, 1968, human hair installation, dimensions variable
22. Ha Chonghyun, *Work 74-A*, 1974, oil and paper-covered wooden slats, 118 x 170 cm.
23. Ha Chonghyun in his studio, Seoul, c. 1980
24. Ha Chonghyun, (l)-*Conjunction 74-98*, 1974, oil on hemp, 225 x 99 cm, (r)-*Work 74-06*, 1974, oil on hemp, 153 x 116 cm.
25. Covers of *Space*, Korea's most important art journal (1966-1976)
26. Covers of *Space* magazine (left)-July 1968-(plan for Yŏido); (right)- February 1971 (cover photo by Hong Sun-t'ae)
27. (left)-Jun Min-cho, *Modernization*, 1969, photograph; (right)- Joo Myung-duck, *Samgakji*, 1968
28. (right)-promotional shot of Kim Choongup, *Samil Building*, completed in 1970
29. Joo Myung-duck, "Chinatown," c. 1968, silver gelatin prints
30. Kim Ku-lim, *From Phenomenon to Trace*, 1970, documentation of performance
31. Hong Myung-sup, *Waterfall*, 1978, installation
32. Lee Kun-yong, *Bodily Equation*, 1973, tree, earth, wire, 400 x 120 x 120 cm.
33. Lee Seung-taek, *Artist's Cottage*, 1979, wood, dimensions variable
34. Lee Kang-so, *Pub in a Gallery*, 1974, performance
35. News clipping of the Fourth Group, *Funeral of Establishment Art and Culture*, 1970, performance, downtown Seoul
36. Sung Neung-kyung, *Newspaper After the 1st of June 1974*, 1974, newspaper, panels, acrylic box. 70 x 90 x 65 cm (each box); 63 x 87 cm (each newspaper panel).
37. Park Seobo, *Écriture No. 43-73*, 1973, pencil and oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm.
38. (left)- Park Seobo, *Export Frigate*, 1974, oil on canvas, 225 x 180 cm; (right)- Kim Se-choong, statue of Admiral Yi Sun-shin, 1966
39. Park Seobo, (left)- *Écriture No. 5-78*, 1978, oil on canvas, 130 x 162 cm; (right) *Écriture No. 72-74*, 1974, pencil and oil on canvas, 45.5 x 53 cm.
40. (left)-Park Seobo, 1973; (right)-Park Seobo in his studio, Hapjeong-dong, Seoul, 1977
41. Lee Kun-yong, *Body Drawing*, 1976, drawing and performance
42. Reenactment of the above, 2001
43. Kang Kuk-jin, *Relation*, 1972, 242 x 148 x 31 cm, rope and cloth.
44. Lee Ufan, (left)-installation view of *Relatum* (formerly *Situation*), 1971, Tokyo. Stretched canvases and stones. Three canvases, 10 x 190 x 170 cm., three stones, approximately 40 cm high each; (right)-Lee Ufan, Installation view of *Relatum*, 7th Youth Paris Biennale, Parc Floral de Paris, Bois de Vincennes, 1971. Rubber and stones.
45. Lee Ufan, *From Point*, 1973, glue and mineral pigment on canvas, 182 x 227 cm.
46. Kwon Young-woo, *Untitled*, 1978, 162 x 120 cm., Korean paper on plywood
47. Kwon Young-woo, *Untitled*, 1980, 162 x 120 cm., Korean paper on plywood
48. Lee Kun-yong, *Relay Life 79-2*, 1979, performance (reenacted in 2002)
49. Park Hyun-ki, *TV and Stones*, 1978, video installation
50. Jun Min-cho, *Apgujeong*, 1977, silver gelatin print
51. Comparison with Yi Haesun photograph
52. Lee Jong-gu, *Father's Cabbage*, 1988, oil on rice sack, 90 x 115 cm.
53. Kim Jung-heon, *Lucky Linoleum – Creating a Prosperous Life*, 1981, oil on canvas, 90 x 65 cm.
54. Joo Jae-hwan, *Hardhat*, 1981, 90 x 72 cm, oil on canvas
55. O Yun, *Marketing 2 (Landscape of Hell)*, 1988
56. Sung Neung-kyung, *Scene 24*, 1985, installation
57. Shin Hak-chul, *History of Modern Korea*, 1983, oil on canvas