

Friday May 2nd

Opening of the *Obang* exhibition – *The Harmony of Colours* (in collaboration with the Maison de la culture Frontenac)

Exhibition of the work of Jin Young Kim, Heeseung Ko and Jihee Min

From May 1st to June 7th

Maison de la culture Frontenac

2550, Ontario street east

(Frontenac subway station)

5pm to 7pm

Free

**Maison de la culture Frontenac** and **Festival Accès Asie** are proud to invite you to the opening of *Obang – the harmony of colours* on **Friday May 2nd at 5pm**, to present the work of four talented Korean-Canadian artists. Drawing inspiration from *O-Bang-Saek* (오방색), meaning the five colours of Korea, Jin Young Kim, Heeseung Ko and Jihee Min offer a very personal interpretation of this traditional symbol by using different mediums. Jihee Min will offer for the occasion a visual and interactive performance in which she interprets colour as a social identity and a metaphor for the struggles of visible minorities in the West.

In Korean, *O-Bang-Saek* means the five directional colours. So red, blue, white, black and yellow respectively represent south, east, west, north and center. Ancient Koreans also associated very specific meanings to each of these colours, red representing creation and passion, blue representing birth and life and white purity and truth. Black is a symbol for wisdom and knowledge and yellow, also called gold, evokes prosperity.

Drawing from the original idea of *O-Bang-Saek*, the three Korean-Canadian artists go beyond this concept by projecting it in all kinds of directions. **Jihee Min** proposes *The Circle*, an interactive installation on the theme of multiculturalism that will evolve throughout the duration of the exhibition. Visitors will be invited to add nails to the work, nails that will have been painted with colours evoking the different skin tones of different populations, to gradually form a harmonious circle. **Jin Young Kim** will present a video installation and photographic series that resonates with the idea of the processes of mourning and rejuvenation, relating to the symbolic meaning of the colour white in Korean culture. With drawing and sculpture, **Heeseung Ko** will present *The wind of five colours*, reviving in her own way the five directional colours. Attempting to communicate her interpretation in an unbiased manner, Ko depicts various principles that can be observed in nature and in the daily lives of Koreans.

Although their cultural background is steeped in Korean traditions, their Canadian experience has influenced their vision of colour in visual arts. This exhibition is thus also a reflection on colour in contemporary Canadian art. A colourful and exotic journey!

*A venue rich in discoveries for all artistic disciplines, the maison de la culture Frontenac presents more than 150 events annually: shows, concerts, screenings and exhibitions, while always making sure to create a warm and welcoming space. The large majority of its activities, plays, concerts, dance shows, film screening and variety shows are free of charge.*

### **Heesseung Ko, visual artist**

Heesseung Ko was born and raised in South Korea. After having been active in the fields of creation and education of visual arts and cinema in South Korea, she moved to Canada where she completed a second Masters of Fine Arts in Montreal. Ko is highly involved in the field of visual arts in Montreal and in Toronto, participating in several solo and group exhibitions. She sees herself as a full-fledged Asian-Canadian, drawing inspiration from her Asian roots to create.

### **Jin Young Kim, visual artist**

Jin Young Kim holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Art and Design and is currently completing a Masters of Fine Arts at Concordia University. Her artistic practice is closely linked to her South Korean origins. Through the use of video and photography, Kim's work frequently involves gestures that are close to the everyday, imbuing them with new meanings. Her work can be seen in several exhibitions, mainly in Montreal.

### **Jihee Min, visual artist**

Jihee Min holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Concordia University and a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Art and Design. Min left South Korea when she was 12 years old to come to Canada with her family. To express her strong desire to integrate into Canadian society, she draws inspiration from her uprooting and from multiculturalism to create work in which the boundary between artist and audience is lifted. With sculpture and installation, she participates in several solo, duo and group exhibitions all across Canada.

Jihee Min would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario, for assisting her participation to this exhibition.