



Korean Colour

Curated by Insang Song.

Korean Colour is an exhibition that introduces three Korean artists who embody today's zeitgeist while playing a pivotal role in Korean traditional culture. All three artists majored in Korean paintings based on a traditional arts curriculum. What they share in common is that they follow the traditional methods while choosing materials and techniques in order to restore and preserve a unique Korean artistic vocabulary that continues to resonate meaningfully in contemporary parlance.

Korea is a country that has a lot of distinctive cultural traditions, with a proud sense of nationhood, maintained over thousands of years. In the field of art, traditional techniques and materials underscore and distinguish Korean artistic expression, not only from that of the West but also from that of neighbouring China and Japan. With globalization and an increased western impact on Korean society at large, it is unfortunately not easy to find works that unequivocally and emphatically display Korean emotions in Korean art today.

In Korean art history, ideological landscape painting influenced by China was consciously reproduced for a long period of time. There was a noticeable shift during the later period of the Chosun dynasty (1392-1897) when it was realistic landscape that were taken up as subjects of painting.



At first glance, the landscape painting of the Jin Li Ba seems like a traditional ideological landscape painting. But on closer examination, unlike traditional landscape paintings it is a work reinterpreted with a contemporary touch that informs and infuses the frame with the sensitivity of the artist.



Kim Jung Ran is a dedicated portraiture artist. She inherited the tradition of portraits from the Chosun Dynasty and softened the formal and rigid posture of traditional arts to portray more intimate figures. The main motif is a woman wearing a *hanbok* (Korean traditional dress) painted on a silk cloth that is printed with scenic photographs.



Park Neung Saeng has been working on such realistic landscapes complemented with the contemporary phenomenon of urbanisation. His work has been acclaimed for creating a new paradigm for contemporary landscape painting.

The figures of Kim Jung Ran, the city of Park Neung Saeng, the mountains of Jin Li Ba manifest the essence of Korea's emotions – we see the unique colours of Korea and taste all that is traditional yet modern in Korea's artistic expression.

- **Insang Song**, Independent Curator, Seoul, Korea.

The exhibition will be on view at The Gallery @ InKo Centre from

23 August to 23 September 2018.

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., Monday to Saturday.