



## Korean Bojagi at the 1st. India Quilt Festival

The Korean tradition of *bojagi*, of wrapping objects with a great deal of care, is characterised by colourful bursts of patchwork and detailed embroidery. Wrapping a gift in a specially made *bojagi* communicated respect for the object as well as goodwill towards the recipient. Korean *bojagi* specialist **Lee Jeong Ae's** *bojagi* garments will be displayed at the 1st. India Quilt Festival in Chennai from **25-27 January, 2019**.

There is a centuries-old tradition in many cultures, but particularly in Asia, of wrapping objects with beautiful textiles. In Korean culture, this type of wrapping, called *bojagi*, included bursts of colorful patchwork or imaginative embroidery, on fine and coarse materials. It was in pre-modern Korea, particularly during the Chosun dynasty (1392-1910), that *bojagi* became a Korean cultural icon.

Traditionally, patchwork *bojagi*, called *chogak po*, had many uses. They served to cover, wrap, store and carry objects in daily life. They were used as a table cloth, to deliver a marriage proposal, to carry possessions on a journey and to adorn and protect sacred writings. Women used wrapping cloth which was quilted and filled with cotton padding to wrap fragile objects or to cover food to keep it hot. Wrapping a gift in a specially made *bojagi* communicated respect for the object as well as goodwill towards the recipient. Each patch and stitch added by the maker was like a prayer of that would be passed on to the recipient. Women adapted

*chogak po* for clothing, to "wrap" and dress their loved ones.

**Lee Jeong Ae**, is a Professor in Boudoir Handicraft and Traditional Knots at the Masan Homeplus Culture Center in Korea. In terms of technique, she connects pieces of the silk on silk cloth using a darning technique which is a unique to the traditional needlework craft of Korea. The edges of the clothes are usually hand-sewn. While different bits of cloth are connected through darning, the girl's jacket, with sleeves of multi-coloured stripes, patchwork quilts and the multi-hued outer coat worn by young children on New Year's Day, are made using a variety of traditional sewing techniques.

Lee Jeong Ae, who won the Bronze prize at the Gyeongnam Craft Contest and a Special Prize at the Korea Craft Contest, is a skilled craftsperson whose creations effectively reinforce the contemporary relevance of tradition, stitching together as it were, the intersecting threads of culture, memory and identity.

## About the 1st India Quilt Festival



**Quilt India Foundation** (QIF) will present the first India Quilt Festival (IQF 2019) at Chennai from 25-27 January, 2019. The festival has been planned along the lines of Quilt shows organized across the world, with elements of competition, exhibition, education and a market place. The festival includes a Quilt competition, workshops where participants can learn from renowned Indian and International faculty and a display of curated quilted exhibits from different parts of the world and private collections. The Quilt show and Special Exhibits will be presented at Sri Sankara Hall, TTK Road, Chennai. Quilters in India and overseas have been invited to participate in the competition segment of the Quilt Show. The categories for the competition section of Quilt show include - Traditional, Modern, Art, Novice and Theme Quilts. While the 'Novice' category is aimed at quilters who have been quilting for 2 years or less, the 'Theme' Quilts will revolve around the IQF 2019 theme 'The Dance of the Peacock'. Awards for the Competition quilts are sponsored by leading Indian and global brands. In addition to the Competition section, the curated section - 'Quilts Across Time and Nation' - will showcase antique Indian quilts and Quilts from different regions of India, in addition to quilts from USA, Egypt, South Korea and other countries.

The festival also has Vendor Booths and a Makers' market for quilting related machines, fabrics, notions as well as quilted products. Visitors can also check out product demos of leading sewing machine brands at their pavilions. Visitor entry is free.

Some of the leading names in the Industry are faculty for the workshops and provide an opportunity for quilters in India to learn quilting techniques - traditional and modern - from around the world. Quilt India Foundation also aims to revive traditional Indian Quilting traditions. In addition to the full-day workshops spread across the 3 days of India Quilt Festival, lectures by eminent quilters and authors are also planned. Workshops and lectures are ticketed events and will be held at WelcomHotel, Cathedral Road, Chennai. Textile tours are also planned to coincide with the festival. These experiential tours include trips to Kerala, Pondicherry and Kutch.



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