

# **SNOWMAN**

## Imagining the Winter Olympics!

### Curated by Insang Song.

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Japani Shyam, a Gond artist from India and Song Dong Ock, a Korean calligraphist, present a unique exhibition that coalesces traditional art forms from India and Korea to commemorate the spirit of the Winter Olympics, a landmark event that opens in Pyeongchang, Korea in February 2018.

India is a country with the most abundant manifestations of traditional culture in the world. There are many different cultures and traditions within India. With reference to painting, there are dozens of tribal and traditional arts. Among them, Gond painting is an example of Indian tribal art that is perhaps most widely known and acclaimed abroad.



This exhibition is an attempt to conceptually complement Gond painting from India with Korean traditional art. The Winter Olympics as a concept is unfamiliar to Indian artists. The exhibition aims to present the winter of Korea and the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics (February, 2018) with art works by an Indian indigenous artist who has not experienced winter.

This exhibition aims to coalesce the traditional arts from India and Korea with the theme of the Winter Olympics in celebration of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic, a global festival of sporting excellence. An Indian Gond painting artist and Korean calligrapher will commemorate the spirit of the Winter Olympics in their works. Gond painting is one of the representative tribal arts in India and calligraphy is a representative art genre with roots in Korea's long traditional culture.

The 2018 Winter Olympics is a major international multi-sport event scheduled to take place from 9 to 25 February 2018 in Pyeongchang County, South Korea.



This will be South Korea's second Olympic Games and its first Winter Games. Seoul hosted the Summer Games in 1988. Pyeongchang will be the third Asian city to host the Winter Games.

In South India, where the snow cannot be seen, the Winter Olympics is just a representative picture. But I hope that this exhibition will make it somewhat more real and become another opportunity to deepen friendly ties between Indian and Korean artists and the general public.

- **Insang Song**

## About the artists:

### **Japani Shyam**

Japani Shyam is a famous Gond artist who lives and works in India. Daughter of the famous Gond artist Jangarh Singh Shyam, Japani's art took a route different from that of her father's. Her world is inhabited by animals and rituals and the forests within which these animals dwell. In 1999, aged eleven, she was awarded the Kamala Devi Award in recognition of her talent.



### **Song Dong Ock**

Song Dong Ock is a famous Korean artist, excelling both in calligraphy and painting. He has presented 15 solo exhibitions abroad and in Korea and has participated in many major exhibitions over the last 40 years. In particular, he has presented calligraphy complemented with performance.



### **About the curator: Insang Song**

Insang Song is an independent curator based in Seoul and New Delhi. He has worked in the Art Museum of Seoul Art Center for more than 22 years during which time he planned more than thirty exhibitions and events. He has curated many international exhibitions, including Hybrid Trend (Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, 2006), INDIAVATA (Sun Contemporary, Seoul, 2008), The Lamp of the East (Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai, 2010), Pink City Art Project, 2011 (Jkk, Jaipur, India, 2011).

While working as Art Director at the Korean Cultural Centre in India (2012-2016), he curated Moving Korea (Korean Cultural Centre India, 2012), AMMA UMMA (India International Centre, Delhi, 2013). KKUM.DDANG. INDIA (Korean Cultural Centre India, Niv Art Centre, 2015), I Lotous 8 (Korean Zen Buddhism and Bodhidharma, National Museum New Delhi, 2015) Currently, he is curating independent art projects and researching Indian tribal and traditional art.

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The exhibition will be on view  
at The Gallery @ InKo Centre  
from **19 January to 20 March 2018.**