

TAEHWA RIVER ECO ART FESTIVAL 2020

Press Release

- **Title: Taehwa River Eco Art Festival 2020 (TEAF20)**
- **Period: 2020. 10. 15 ~ 10. 25**
- **Venue: Taehwagang National Garden Migratory Park, Ulsan (47, Mugeo dong, Nam gu, Ulsan)**
- **Theme: An Ore in My Hands**
- **Participating Artists: Total of 18 teams or individual artists from 7 countries around the world**
- **Press Inquiry: Jiyeon Park (jiyeon.park@gmail.com / +82 10 9228 6808)**

Kyungsang Ilbo Press holds the 14th Taehwa River Eco Art Festival (TEAF20) for 11 days from October 15th to 25th, 2020. This exhibition, which examines the role of visual culture in a rapidly changing new phenomenon under the theme of 'An Ore in My Hands', will be held in the Taehwa River National Garden Migratory Bird Park with artworks from the United States, Germany, Russia, Spain, and South Africa. More than 20 works by 18 teams from 7 different countries will be presented.

An Ore in my Hands -"We carry little pieces from Africa in our pockets."

'An Ore in My Hands', the theme of this exhibition, was presented by media archaeologist Juli Parikka to explain the concept of digital materiality by sociologist and architectural theorist Benjamin H. Bratton's "We carry small pieces from Africa in our pockets." This refers to platinum and coltan, which are the key materials for the latest cell phones we use. The ore in the title expands its meaning from the dictionary definition of a rock with economic feasibility to nature. If previous exhibitions have paid attention to the protection and importance of nature, TEAF20 raises questions on what the earth (natural objects) provides, how they affect human lives, and how humans coexist and co-evolve in this capitalism and naturalism focused era. Through this, we intend to provide an opportunity to pay attention to the possibility of contemporary art and visual culture amongst new phenomena, as well as to dwell on the fact that earth changes the way they operate according to human intervention, not just from a mere pessimistic view of the environment.

The Taehwagang International Installation Art Festival, which started in 2007, the year Ulsan was promoted to a metropolitan city, began using the river park as an outdoor exhibition site, to show Ulsan's regeneration from a polluting city to an environmental city. The Taehwagang National Garden, designated as the second national garden in Korea in July of last year, completely transformed Ulsan from an industrial city into a waterfront ecological garden city, suggesting a new model of the mechanism by which the natural environment and industrial productivity work. In that sense, the theme of this exhibition, 'An Ore in the Hands', represents a small mineral of nature that has existed in the beginning of earth, and now is used as a core raw material for the latest IT technology. It implies that nature and technology can never be separated, and the direction of symbiosis and co-evolution must be sought through mutual interaction.

18 teams from 7 countries around the world

18 artists from 7 countries including the United States, Russia, Spain, Germany, and South Africa, will be participating in the exhibition, featuring Ben Butler (USA), who has won the best commission project at the Memphis Convention Center Public Art Competition in the United States in 2019. In addition, Leonid Tishkov (Russia), who has photographed the journey with the moon in all over the world for the past 17 years, will be introducing his work in Ulsan Kora this year.

In Korea, Artist Hong Soun, who has received a lot of attention with the exhibition <Rosy Life> in Daegu Contemporary Art Museum in 2017, participates in the team name of 'Kim Daemon' with artist Oh Jeong-hyun. Also, Artist Je Baak, who has been nominated as Gran Prix in Hyundai Motors VH Award (2016) and Saatchi Gallery <Korean Eye> (2012), Young Artist of Kumho Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art(2017) will be joining the line-up. Susumu Kawai (Japan)'s work, that will be created with the participation of citizens, will be an exciting event for citizens of Ulsan to be a part of this festival.

In addition, Science Walden, a research group at the Ulsan Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), is a science and art convergence community that proposes and realizes a new concept that enables science and technology to meet humanities and arts to solve problems facing our society. Jieun Koo, who is a researcher at Science Walden, will be focusing on various psychological attitudes and domains of modern people, seeking ways to awaken modern people's perception of social issues and communicate.

Park So-hee, who was elected as the director-in-chief of this exhibition, served as the director of the exhibition team at Youngeun Museum of Art, director of the Noblesse Collection, and the head director of the exhibition <Da Vinci Codex> in Cultural Station284. She is also participating as a curator of the Changwon Sculpture Biennale Special Exhibition.