

ANNUAL REVIEW

Korean Cultural Centre UK

2023

Commemorating 140 Years of Korea-UK Relations

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Director's Foreword



Seunghye Sun, Ph.D.
Director, Korean Cultural Centre UK

*While the wind keeps blowing,
My feet stand upon a rock.*

*While the river keeps flowing,
My feet stand upon a hill.*

From Yun Dong-ju, *Standing on a Rock*

A New Future: Korea and the UK

In the annals of our shared history, 2023 stands out as a year of significant milestones, not least with the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and the United Kingdom. It was a year that also saw the Korean Cultural Centre UK celebrate its 15th anniversary, and personally, it was the year that I was honoured to commence my tenure as Director. This year has indeed been one of the most luminous chapters in my professional journey.

Among the myriad of memorable moments that the 140th anniversary has bestowed upon us, the State Visit stands paramount. This event, the first

of its kind following His Majesty King Charles III's coronation, was a profound testament to the enduring strength and depth of our nations' bonds. When His Majesty quoted Yun Dong-ju's *Standing on a Rock* during the state banquet, I was deeply moved, witnessing a sincere tribute to the resilience and identity of the Korean spirit. The following day brought an indescribable sense of historical transition, as Black Pink, the Korean K-Pop stars, were honoured for their participation in climate change advocacy. This was further symbolised by the Welsh Guards performing "DDU-DU DDU-DU" outside Buckingham Palace, a moment that encapsulated the evolution of Korean-British cultural exchange over the last 140 years, ushering in a new era of cultural diplomacy.

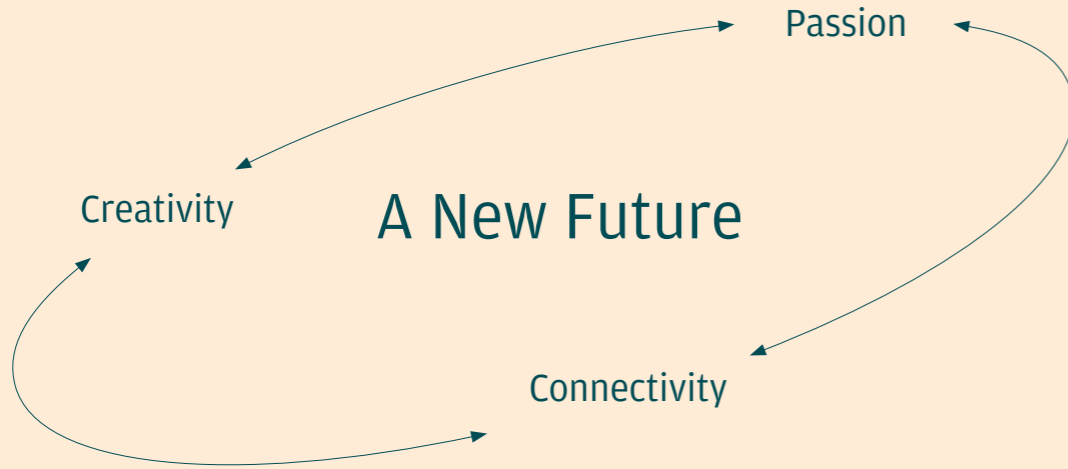
The year was filled with events celebrating the 140th anniversary of Korea-UK diplomatic relations. The centrepiece was the *KOREA SEASON*, a year-long programme showcasing the best of Korean culture through exhibitions, music, dance, and cinema. In the autumn, in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Administration, we launched a special exhibition titled *HERE WITH YOU* as part of the A NEW WORLD K-Heritage campaign, underscoring how Korean culture now stands as your supreme

companion. Festivals celebrating K-Dance, K-Music, the London Korean Film Festival, KCCUK House Concerts, and regional festivals held in collaboration with universities all further cemented their positions in the UK cultural calendar.

In the UK, Korean culture has markedly elevated its prestige with significant cultural institutions. Exhibitions sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, such as the Hallyu special exhibition at the V&A and the Korean Curators Workshop at the British Museum, have provided a profound introduction to Korean culture, bridging its traditions and modernity. Additionally, the autumn was animated by K-Pop concerts across the UK, their resonating cheers still echoing, showcasing the vibrant and youthful nature of Korean culture, which has garnered unprecedented popularity among the younger generations and has even captivated the Royal Family.

As we look forward, it is my hope that Korean culture will continue to be the golden key to unlocking a new future in the UK, cementing its role as a young and dynamic force within the British cultural landscape.





KCCUK

For unfolding your own heart

From the Preface of *Humminjeongeum*

At the Korean Cultural Centre UK, we aspire to forge a new future through culture, intertwining creativity to enhance the lives of all. We embark on a cultural journey to open up emotional wellness for everyone, setting “A New Future” as our guiding light with **creativity**, **connectivity**, and **passion** as our three foundational pillars.

We envision bridging the seemingly disparate – you and I, Korea and the UK, the past and the future, tradition and modernity, reality and fantasy – in a harmonious yin and yang, thereby crafting a blended identity that defines the new future. This path will be marked by challenges and changes as we strive to express the fundamental nature of human emotions and realise the ultimate form of inclusive humanism.

Should a distant tomorrow inquire about the dreams we dreamt, our reply will be this: In opening a new future through culture, Korea and the UK stood as the closest of friends.

We invite everyone to join us on this journey.

Seunghye Sun, Ph.D. Director, Korean Cultural Centre UK

KCCUK in Numbers

276,728 Website Visitors

140,192 Youtube Views

34,738 Event Attendances

33,062 Social Media Engagements

35,021 Newsletter Subscribers

652 Media Coverage

459 Events

92% Satisfaction Survey Results



2023 Korea across the UK

- Edinburgh** | Edinburgh International Festival

- York** | Korea Day Festival

- Preston** | Korea Day Festival

- Manchester** | A Festival of Korea Dance

- Sheffield** | Korea Day Festival

- Coventry** | A Festival of Korean Dance
| Arnold Clark Cup (Republic of Korea Vs Belgium)

- Oxford** | The Walking Tour, Korea Day Festival

- Cardiff** | Republic of Korea Vs Wales (International Friendly Football Match)

- London** | KCCUK

- Guildford** | The UK Korean Ambassador's Cup

- Brighton** | A Festival of Korean Dance

2023 Calendar

JAN.

Korean Language Course

FEB.

Transfer Exhibition
Seong-jin Cho Recital
Korean Temple Food Demonstration
Korean Literature Night: The Age of Doubt
Promoting Korean Football in the UK: Arnold Clark Cup Republic of Korea Vs Belgium
House Concert: The Pathway
Korean Language Course

MAR.

Transfer Exhibition
Korean Literature Night: The Disaster Tourist
Korean Film Nights: Seoul on Screen
House Concert: Quartet | Violinist Gooil Kang and Rachel Woo,
| Violist Dahee Kwon, Cellist Haeun Kim
Korean Language Course

APR.

A Festival of Korean Dance
MOVER at the Breakin' Convention
Transfer Exhibition
Korean Cuisine Month
Korean Literature Night: The Korean Book of Happiness
Korean Film Night: Seoul on Screen
Sheffield Korea Day Festival
K-Pop Academy
Promoting Korean Football in the UK: Women's Super League
House Concert: The Musical in Concert
Korean Language Course

MAY.

Light of Weaving Exhibition
A Festival of Korean Dance
MOVER at the Breakin' Convention
Korean Cuisine Month
Korean Literature Night: Whale
Korean Film Talk: V&A Museum Korea Cinema's Golden Age
K-Pop Academy
House Concert: Ambra Quintet
Korean Language Course

JUN.

Light of Weaving Exhibition
MOVER at the Breakin' Convention
Sunwook Kim with the London Symphony Orchestra
Traditional Korean Food at Taste of London
York Korea Day Festival
Korean Film Night: Labour(s) of Love
K-Pop Academy
House Concert: Pianist Yunho Jeong
Korean Language Course

JUL.

Audible Garden Exhibition
Korean Cuisine Event with Le Cordon Bleu
The UK Korean Ambassador's Cup: Taekwondo & Korean Martial Arts
Korean Language Course
Korean Literature Night: Love in the Big City

AUG.

Edinburgh International Festival
Audible Garden Exhibition
Korean Temple Food Demonstration
Korean Film Nights: Next Door
House Concert: The KBS Symphony Orchestra Quintet

SEPT.

Audible Garden Exhibition
Dragons by Eun-Me Ahn Company
K-Seminar Series
| #1 Korea: A New History of South and North
| #2 Elegance in Porcelain: Exploring the Legacy of Joseon Dynasty White Ceramics
| #3 Advancing Lines: Constellation Links
| #4 Transnational Consumption of K-dramas: A Case of Netflix Originals
Hallyu Con
Promoting Korean Football in the UK: Republic of Korea Vs Wales
Seoul Arts Center on Screen: Shim Chung
House Concert: Pianist Minsu Seo
Korean Language Course

OCT.

K-Music Festival
Audible Garden Exhibition
Korean Culture Month with Foyles
K-Seminar Series
| #5 Author Talk with Hyunju Lee: The Word Factory
Korean Film Book Talk: Film Korea - The Ghibliothèque Guide to Korean Cinema
Where Oxford Meets Korea: The Walking Tour
Preston Korea Day Festival
Oxford Korea Day Festival
Hallyu Con
The Oulim in London
Seoul Arts Center on Screen: Yun Posun House Concert
Korean Language Course

NOV.

State Visit of the President of the Republic of Korea to the United Kingdom
London Korean Film Festival
| Korea Season Special Screenings
K-Music Festival
Visit Korean Heritage Campaign
Here with You Exhibition
Korean Culture Month with Foyles
Afternoon Tea with Sollip
K-Seminar Series
| #6 Illustrator Talk with Woo Nayeoung: Drawing Action Heroes in the Digital Age
The Oulim in London
House Concert | Pianist Soohong Park, Soprano Sarah Chae,
| Tenor Won Choi, Recitalist Alex Norton
Korean Language Course

DEC.

K-Seminar Series
| #7 AI and Humanity
Heecheon Kim: Double Poser



State Visit of the President of the Republic of Korea to the United Kingdom

20.11.2023 → 23.11.2023

In celebration of 140 years of Korea-UK Diplomatic Relations, the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, accompanied by Mrs. Kim Keon Hee, paid a state visit to the United Kingdom as the guests of His Majesty King Charles III. As London prepared to commemorate the friendship between the two countries, the KCCUK rode a wave of excitement with various cultural events covering art, music, cinema, and literature.

The Mall was filled with both Korean and Union flags, and the large TV screens in the centre of London welcomed the State Visit of the President. Outside of Buckingham Palace, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards performing songs by BLACKPINK and PSY will live long in the memory.

11,880 KCCUK Social Media Engagements

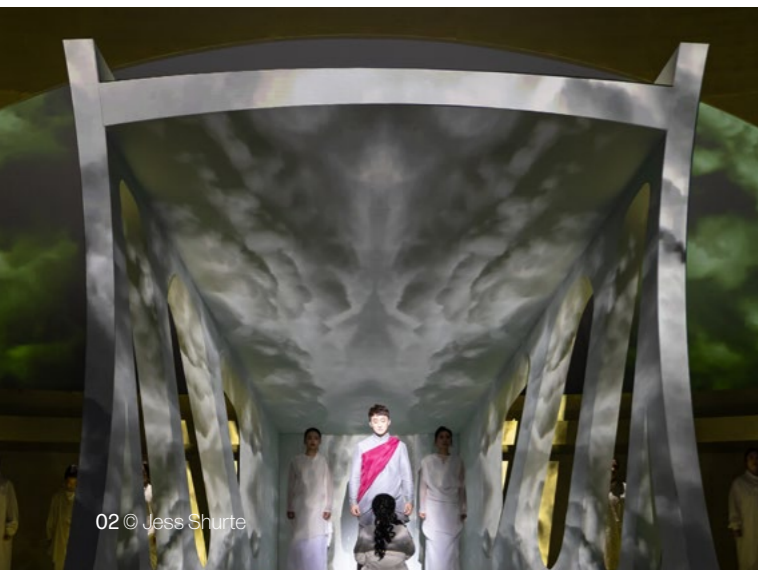
298 Korean & British Media Coverage



With an ever growing interest in the UK for Korean culture, the State Visit once again underlined the role of the KCCUK: Presenting the Very Best of Korea for the Enjoyment of Audiences across the Country.



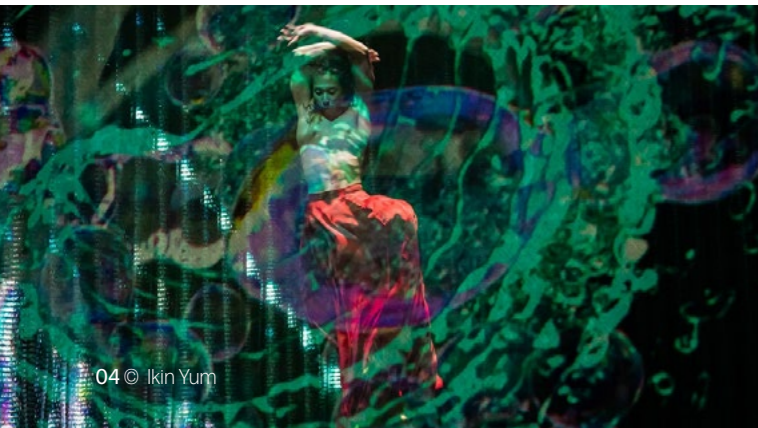
01 © Dan weill



02 © Jess Shurte



03 ©Andrew Perry



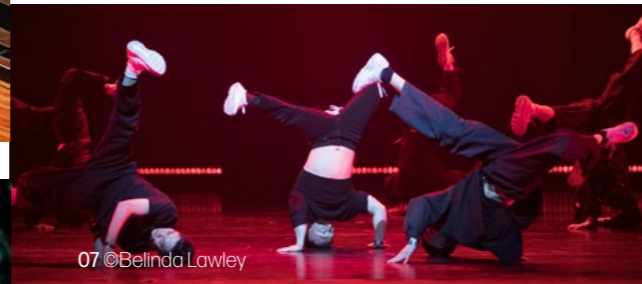
04 © Ikin Yum



05 © Ikin Yum



06 ©Sollip



07 ©Belinda Lawley



08 © Chris Lee

KOREA SEASON

Across the UK

02. 2023 → 12. 2023

Korea Season is an annual cultural exchange project that introduces the very best of Korean arts to nations across the globe. Following the first Korea Season in Mexico in 2022, the UK was selected for 2023 as part of the 140th anniversary of Korea-UK diplomatic relations. The programme was supported by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE).

As part of the *2023 Korea Season*, Korean artists were presented at various festivals, venues and programmes, including the Edinburgh International Festival, Sadler's Wells, Barbican, and the Hayward Gallery. The highlight of the programme was a *Focus on Korea*, delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival in August which featured five large scale events ranging from pansori to classical music.

N°	Events	Date
08	Seong-jin Cho recital	13 Feb.
07	MOVER at the Breakin' Convention	28 - 29 Apr. & 17 May - 14 Jun.
05	Sunwook Kim with the London Symphony Orchestra	17 May
06	Korean Cuisine Event with Le Cordon Bleu	1, 3 Jul.
01	Audible Garden by Jinjoon Lee	20 Jul. - 13 Oct.
02	Focus on Korea at the Edinburgh International Festival	8 - 17 Aug.
03	Dragons by Eun-Me Ahn Company	20 - 23 & 26 - 27 Sept.
04	Korea Season Special Screenings	5 - 21 Nov.
	Heecheon Kim: Double Poser	1 Dec. 2023 - 7 Jan. 2024

32,735

Audience

390

Korean & British Media Coverage

18,114

KCCUK Social Media Engagements





VISIT KOREAN HERITAGE CAMPAIGN

Korean Cultural Centre UK | London Korean Film Festival | OVO Arena Wembley
31.10.2023 → 25.11.2023

In collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, the KCCUK co-hosted a series of special events in London as part of the 2023 Visit Korean Heritage Campaign. London was selected as the next leg in this global campaign as part of the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations celebrations between Korea and the United Kingdom.

Central to the campaign, the media art exhibition Here with You – The Beauty of Korean Heritage was presented at the Korean Cultural Centre UK, featuring images of five Korean UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Accompanying the exhibition was live performances of Soritgonggam, the performance of pansori and taepyeongmu, providing a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the traditional sounds of Korea. The campaign travelled to the OVO Arena Wembley with Korea On Stage where renowned Korean artists including ATEEZ, STAY C, Jannabi, etc lit up the stage with the sounds of K-Pop and K-Rock.



Korea's vibrant cultural heritage was introduced to the British public in the autumn of 2023. Huge crowds visited Wembley Arena to see Korea On Stage, with the media art exhibition at the KCCUK also receiving rave reviews. The London Korean Film Festival added a twist to their annual offering by serving Taraegua Omijia, a traditional Korean dessert.

TRANSFER

Korean Cultural Centre UK

24.02.2023 → 14.04.2023

TRANSFER was a workshop-style exhibition delving into the digital documentation of painting. Showcasing paintings alongside digital records, it homed in on pieces from the UK and South Korea crafted within the last three decades. The exhibition delved into the nuances lost during the creation process of digital documents, featuring artworks that pushed the boundaries of fidelity to their respective originals, thereby challenging conventional documentation practices.

This collaborative research endeavour engaged artists, art historians, filmmakers, and digital scientists from academic institutions in both the UK and Korea, with the aim of shedding light on similarities and differences between European and East Asian artists and exploring cultural influences on digital painting documentation.

The exhibition included pieces by various artists, with support from institutions including the University of Arts London, Dankook University, and Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH).

The Korean Cultural Centre's collaboration with key UK institutions proved highly successful, significantly boosting its local exposure and promotional impact. This strategic partnership offered a wider audience, including those unfamiliar with Korean art, an accessible and engaging opportunity to delve into the culture. This collaboration not only localised the Centre but also enhanced its cultural recognition within London's art scene.

The entire process, from planning to execution, was conducted collaboratively, leading to an efficient use of resources. The exhibition's opening ceremony attracted 180 attendees, including general visitors and representatives from prestigious London educational and art institutions including the University of the Arts London, SOAS University of London, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Further engagement was fostered through captivating seminars led by three expert curators, attracting an additional 30 participants.

Jaemin Cha



LIGHT OF WEAVING: Labour - Hand - Hours

Korean Cultural Centre UK

24.02.2023 → 14.04.2023

As part of London Craft Week, in collaboration with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), the Korean Cultural Centre UK and the Soluna Art Group, the exhibition *Light of Weaving: Labour - Hand - Hours* celebrated Korean aesthetics under the theme of 'Weaving'. This captivating showcase highlighted the unique heritage and contemporary interpretations of this ancient craft within the dynamic London Craft Week programme.

Featuring the work of eleven master artists, the exhibition beautifully presented pieces crafted using traditional Korean techniques and materials. From ceramics and glass to textiles and natural lacquer, these materials were each transformed into unique objects that embodied the essence of Korean beauty. Through the interplay of light and shadow, the installation brought out the texture and silhouette of each piece, offering a captivating exploration of weaving as both an artistic practice and a cultural bridge between East and West.

Among the featured artists were renowned figures such as Dahye Jeong, winner of the 2022 Loewe Foundation Craft Prize, and Daeyong Cho, designated as an Intangible Cultural Asset of Korea, along with other talented individuals whose works spanned a range of mediums from horsehair to clay and metal.

This exhibition not only honoured tradition but also celebrated the innovation and creativity of contemporary Korean artisans.

Presented as part of London Craft Week 2023, *Light of Weaving: Labour - Hand - Hours* captivated audiences with its stunning display of Korean craftsmanship. The exhibition enjoyed increased local exposure and promotional impact as audiences to London Craft Week took the opportunity to discover more about Korean art.

Beyond captivating local audiences, the exhibition served as a prestigious international platform for Korean craft. Featuring works by multiple Loewe Foundation Craft Prize recipients, including both winners and finalists, the event shone a spotlight on the excellence and innovation of Korean artisans.

Jaemin Cha



AUDIBLE GARDEN

Korean Cultural Centre UK

21.07.2023 → 13.10.2023

Audible Garden was an exhibition jointly presented by The Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) and the Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK). This solo exhibition featured works by the new media artist Jinjoon Lee, as part of the yearlong celebration of the 140th anniversary of Korea-UK diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the UK, this multisensory experience went beyond mere viewing.

Drawing inspiration from Asian Sansui landscapes and Korean garden philosophy, Lee's artistry blossomed. Inspired by his residency at the ZKM's Hertz lab, he interweaved drawings, sculptures, videos, and interactive sound art. Enveloped in a calming green filter, the exhibition blurred the lines between the real and the digital, the internal and external.

Visitors embarked on a contemplative journey, exploring the intersections of nature, sound, space, and memory. Lee's work challenged traditional boundaries, inviting viewers to question the familiar. This 'liminoid experience' dissolved the distinctions between art and nature, sound and silence, physical and digital, leaving a lasting impression.

The captivating *Audible Garden* exhibition garnered attention from none other than British Vogue, who shot part of their *Vogue On The Road* series right within its immersive space. Their *Driven to Greatness* piece explored the Electrified Genesis GV70, highlighting its connection to the exhibition's themes of Korean innovation, the environment and design.

Beyond the visual arts, *Audible Garden* sparked intellectual discourse. A thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by acclaimed arts writer Octavia Reeve drew over 40 prominent arts education professionals and artists. Joining the conversation were renowned figures like Jinjoon Lee, the exhibition's artist, Professor Arnaud Petit from Oxford University, and Professor Kevin Walker from Coventry University. Together, they delved into the fascinating interplay of art, philosophy, and technology, enriching the exhibition's impact beyond its physical space.

Lee Suh



HERE WITH YOU

Korean Cultural Centre UK

31.10.2023 → 25.11.2023

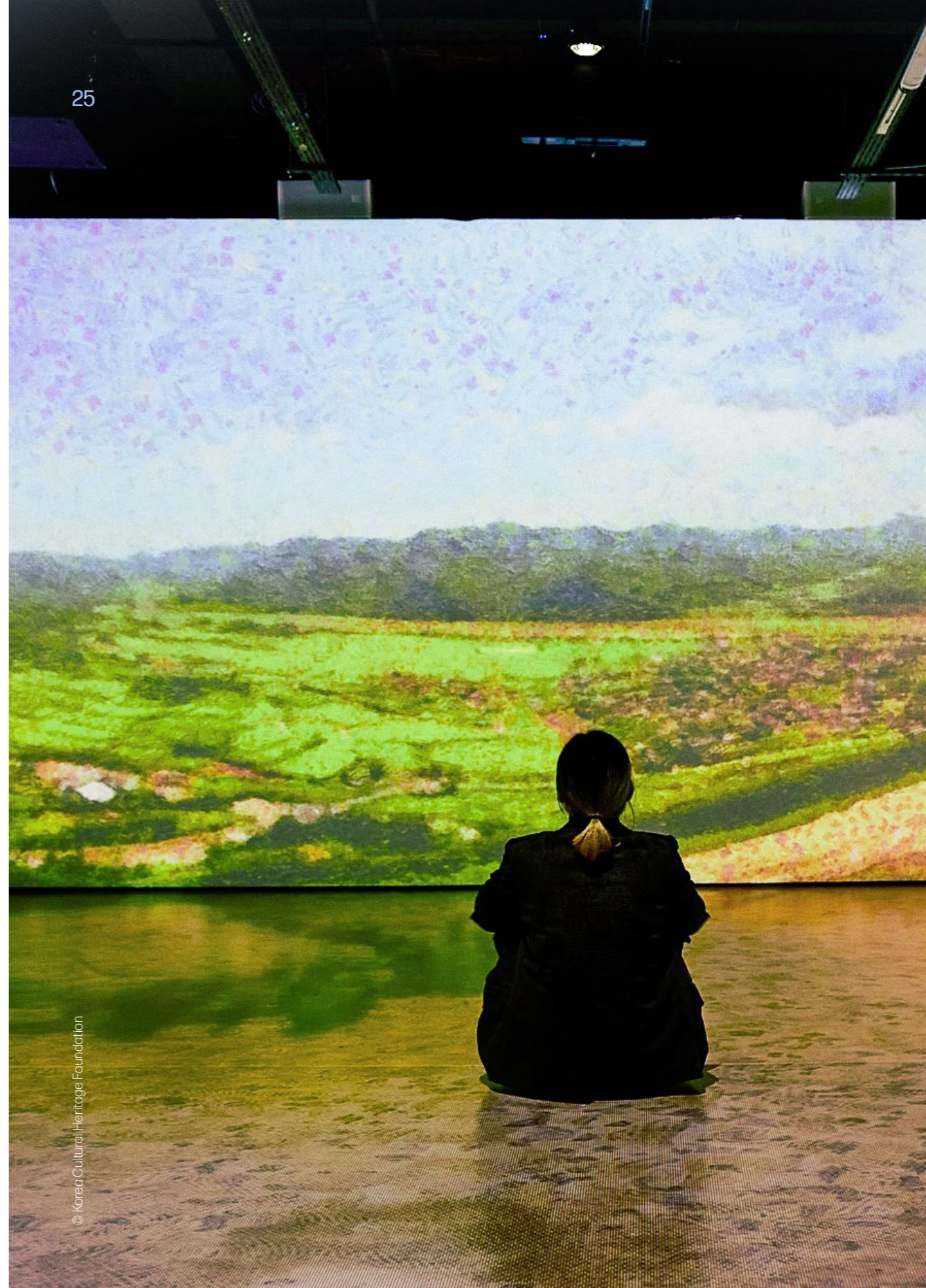
To celebrate the 140th anniversary of Korea-UK diplomatic relations, the Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) hosted the exhibition *Here with You: The Beauty of Korean Heritage*. Presented by the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, this innovative showcase utilised cutting-edge digital technology to illuminate the profound splendour of Korean cultural heritage. Visitors were invited on an immersive journey that engulfed them in captivating visuals and music.

The exhibition portrayed Korea's rich history, narrating compelling stories and evoking a distinct aura that enveloped visitors as they walked through the displays. Featuring vibrant AI-generated images and music presented in a circular unfolding format, the exhibition showcased prominent heritage sites such as Changdeok Palace and Suwon Hwaseong Fortress, offering a captivating visual journey through Korea's beauty.

This exhibition formed an integral part of the wider *Visit Korean Heritage Campaign*, a visionary initiative promoted by the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, aiming to help people rediscover the value of cultural heritage and its pivotal role in the foundation of the global Korean Wave phenomenon.

By showcasing Korea's cultural heritage in the UK through the use of digital technology, including media walls and mapping, we have stimulated interest in Korean culture. This engaging approach, coupled with the in-house programmes, group visits, and lecture events, has led to a significant increase in visitor numbers and in so doing fostered greater cultural exchange.

Lee Suh



K-MUSIC FESTIVAL: 10th Anniversary

The Barbican | Southbank Centre | Kings Place | The Lower Third
01.10.2023 → 12.11.2023

Since 2013, the Korean Cultural Centre UK has partnered with Serious, the force behind the renowned EFG London Jazz Festival, to bring the K-Music Festival to life. Celebrating its triumphant 10th anniversary, the festivities kicked off with a bang, featuring a groundbreaking collaboration between Jung Jaeil, the acclaimed Music Director behind the music of Squid Game and Parasite, and the London Symphony Orchestra. Together, they captivated audiences at the iconic Barbican Hall.

History was made at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, with the first-ever collaboration of two Korean music icons: Jamabinai and Leenalchi. Their performance sold out in record time, leaving audiences wanting more. Adding an exciting jazz twist to the lineup, Soojin Suh's Chordless Quartet featuring Mercury Music Award nominee Kit Downes brought the festival to a splendid close as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival. Their innovative set proved that K-Music thrives beyond genre boundaries.

3,439

Audience

147,213

KCCUK Social Media Engagements

OVER 100

Korean & British Media Coverage

92%

Satisfaction Survey Result

This year the festival presented nine unforgettable performances across the UK, from London to Liverpool and Leeds. With a total of 3,439 enthusiastic audience members, the festival achieved an outstanding satisfaction score of 92% among attendees. The festival garnered widespread press coverage, featuring in over 100 domestic and international media outlets, including prominent British platforms like BBC Radio and Songlines Magazine.

Jaeyeon Park





A FESTIVAL OF KOREAN DANCE

The Place | The Lowry | Warwick Arts Centre | South East Dance

13.04.2023 → 11.05.2023

As part of the 2017-18 Korea-UK Season, A Festival of Korean Dance was inaugurated, a collaborative effort between the Korean Cultural Centre UK and The Place, a leading hub for British contemporary dance.

Fast forward to its 6th edition in 2023, A Festival of Korean Dance has strengthened its local ties and embarked on an expansive European tour, spanning the UK, Belgium, and Spain featuring captivating performances by the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company.

The festival has also forged partnerships with prestigious UK venues including Manchester's Lowry Theatre, Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre, and South East Dance in Brighton. These partnerships brought works by acclaimed Korean contemporary dance companies, Company SIGA and BODIES.DIGITAL to UK audiences, resulting in sold-out shows. An impressive total of 11 performances across the UK and Europe solidified the festival's reputation as the premier platform for showcasing the finest Korean contemporary dance in Europe.

3,241

Audience

151

Korean & British Media Coverage

96%

Satisfaction Survey Result

2023's festival captivated audiences across Europe, drawing 3,241 attendees to 11 performances in 6 cities across 3 countries. The Korea National Contemporary Dance Company's captivating performances, particularly in London and regional UK venues, earned rave reviews and sold-out crowds. Not only did the festival garner critical acclaim, including a glowing review from the prestigious UK newspaper The Guardian, but it also received extensive coverage from 151 domestic and international media outlets.

Jaeyeon Park





EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Festival Theatre | Usher Hall | Queen's Hall

08.08.23 → 17.08.2023

Focus on Korea was the most extensive programme of Korean artists in the Edinburgh International Festival's 76-year history, featuring the pansori *Trojan Women* by the National Changgeuk Company of Korea, the KBS Symphony Orchestra performing Dvořák and Tchaikovsky, as well as intimate recitals from the Novus String Quartet, Yeol Eum Son and Clara-Jumi Kang.

The first such collaboration since 2013, *Focus on Korea* was brought to life through a very close collaboration with the Festival. The pansori *Trojan Women*, described as "Greek tragedy beautifully interwoven with Korean tradition", received rave reviews from both audiences and critics alike. The KBS Symphony Orchestra, with the conductor Pietari Inkinen and cellist Jaemin Han, making their first UK appearance, also received five-star reviews. The three recitals were filled with enthusiastic cheers, standing ovations and much applause.

By reaching beyond London, *Focus on Korea* helped to promote Korean culture and arts in Scotland, as well as developing audiences and programmes for Korean arts on an international level.

6,442

Audience

9,791

KCCUK Social Media Engagement

99

Korean & British Media Coverage



**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

Stand out coverage included multiple Five-star reviews for *Trojan Women*, being picked by The Guardian as one of the best UK theatre shows of 2023 and also a favourite stage show in a Guardian readers' poll.

Rachel Minjeong Chang



KCC HOUSE CONCERT

St. James's Piccadilly

02.2023 → 11.2023

For over seven years, the KCC House Concert series has nurtured emerging Korean classical musicians on the prestigious London stage, fostering cross-cultural exchange and audience engagement. Partnering with renowned institutions like the Royal Academy of Music, these monthly concerts showcase stunning talent whilst offering a diverse range of classical experiences.

In 2023, the series included eight performances at St. James's Piccadilly, featuring a piano recital by pianist Yunho Jeong, ensemble performances by the Hayoung Woo Quartet and the Ambra Quartet led by Dasom Jeong, and galas showcasing musicals and operas which expanded the programme's scope significantly.

1,145

Audience

51

Korean & British Media Coverage

2023 was a resounding success for the House Concert series, 1,145 attendees across eight captivating performances enjoyed enriching musical experiences. The series garnered impressive coverage in 51 domestic and international media outlets. This highlights the programme's impactful outreach efforts and solidifies its standing as a major platform for Korean classical music in London.

Jaeyeon Park
Narae Kim



FILM

LONDON KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

BFI Southbank | Picturehouse Central | ICA | Ciné Lumière | Rio Cinema
Garden Cinema | Richmix | Korean Cultural Centre UK

02.11.2023 → 16.11.2023

The London Korean Film Festival (LKFF) returned for its 18th edition in 2023, boasting the most extensive programme dedicated to Korean cinema outside of Korea itself.

The festival was proud to present another thrilling lineup of 40 films spanning various strands, including Cinema Now, Special Focus – KAFA 40 Years Anniversary, Women's Voices, Special Screenings, and Korea Season: Indie Talent and Korea Season: Disability in Korean Cinema.

Marking the 140 years of Korea-UK Diplomatic Relations, the London Korean Film Festival (LKFF) celebrated in style with its first-ever Opening and Closing ceremonies at the prestigious BFI Southbank. The festival culminated with the thrilling mystery *Dr. Cheon And The Lost Talisman*, leaving audiences wanting more. With over 4,000 attendees captivated by 31 screenings and 4 insightful Master Classes, the LKFF solidified its position as the premier platform for Korean cinema in Europe.

Eunji Lee



© Erika Rimkute

KOREAN FILM NIGHTS

Korean Cultural Centre UK

14.02.2023 → 12.10.2023

Korean Film Nights (KFN) is a year-round programme of film screenings, mini-lectures and discussions that guide audiences through different aspects of Korean cinema and culture. Having run since 2008, KFN has showcased a wide spectrum of films based around a variety of different themes and is put together in collaboration with external partners to bring fresh insight to the programme.

Korean Film Nights hosted collaborative screening and lecture events in partnership with Birkbeck University, King's College London, and the University of Greenwich. Classic film screenings and Korean film seminars were also presented in collaboration with the Korean Film Archive and Yonsei University, garnering a total attendance of over 800 audience members.



Eunji Lee





KOREAN TEMPLE FOOD

Le Cordon Bleu London

07.02.2023 → 08.02.2023 | 08.08.2023 → 09.08.2023

Since 2021, the Korean Cultural Centre UK has presented a Korean Temple Food Course as a part of Le Cordon Bleu London's Diploma in Plant-Based Culinary Arts.

In partnership with the Cultural Corps of Korean Buddhism, the course includes a termly lecture and a practical class in Korean cuisine for the students. In addition, for the public, each semester there is a live demonstration and cooking class. The Venerable Beop Song leads the events and shares her mindful cooking methods of plant-based dishes using a broad range of organic ingredients including seaweed.

Nurturing the next generation of culinary stars while igniting public interest in a rising food trend is the winning formula behind our Korean Temple Food Course, offered in partnership with renowned culinary schools.

This year, we focused on seaweed, a 2023 food trend, delving into its versatile uses in Korean temple cuisine. The response was phenomenal, with the public demonstrations filling up almost immediately, showcasing the growing fascination with this ancient and sustainable culinary tradition.

By partnering with leading schools and highlighting trending ingredients, we're not just inspiring future chefs, but also empowering the public to explore exciting new culinary horizons.





©Chris Jeongmin Lee

KOREAN CUISINE MONTH

Westminster Kingsway College | The Vincent Rooms

22.04.2023 → 20.05.2023

Korean Cuisine Month is a month-long feast showcasing Korean food in partnership with Westminster Kingsway College. Beginning in April with a series of Korean Cuisine Workshops each Saturday at the college's Victoria Centre with Chef Tom Egerton.

In May, a Korean Cuisine Menu Week was held at the college's 'The Vincent Rooms', showcasing traditional and contemporary Korean food as part of the celebration of 140 years of friendship between the UK and Korea.

262 Audience
(30% increase on the previous year)

92% Satisfaction Survey Result

Building on its popularity, the third annual Korean Cuisine Month in partnership with Westminster Kingsway College was a resounding success. The four exciting workshops all sold out, with participants rating their experience an impressive 92 out of 100.

But the culinary adventure didn't stop there, the Korean Cuisine Menu Week welcomed 262 visitors, a fantastic 30% increase on the previous year. This vibrant display of traditional and contemporary Korean dishes, prepared by the college's aspiring culinary stars, captivated guests and further solidified the event's popularity.

Soojeong Na



TRADITIONAL KOREAN FOOD at TASTE OF LONDON

Taste of London

14.06.2023 → 18.06.2023

As a celebration of traditional Korean cuisine, the city of Andong and the Korean Foundation for Cultures and Ethics (KFCE) showcased Andong's rich food culture at a Taste of London.

During the event, dishes from Korea's oldest existing cookbook Soowonjapbang were recreated alongside a display depicting Queen Elizabeth II's 73rd birthday meal which she enjoyed in Andong in 1999. The audience learned how to prepare traditional Korean food from Chef Do-eun Kim, whose family inherited this special cookbook.

Commemorating Her Late Majesty the Queen's historic visit to Andong in 1999, this event at a Taste of London was organised to celebrate the friendship between the UK and Korea. Special guests from renowned culinary schools were invited to learn about and discover traditional Korean food. Chef Kim created a meal based on recipes from Korea's oldest surviving cookbook as well as sharing her knowledge of how to bring old recipes to life in the modern era.



AFTERNOON TEA with SOLLIP

Korean Cultural Centre UK

22.11.2023

As part of the 140th anniversary Korea-UK diplomatic relations, the Michelin-starred restaurant Sollip served a Korean tea with their Korean-inspired mignardises. As they do in their London restaurant, Sollip introduced Korean-influenced cooking interspersed with European techniques. We shared a selection of Korean teas alongside four varieties of mignardises, conveying a message of cultural collaboration between the two countries.

Combining British tea culture with exquisite Korean flavours and ingredients, this event was created to celebrate the bilateral relationship between Korea and the UK and took place during the State Visit. The event captured the imagination of the public, with over 120 applications being received to join the event. To accommodate the interest, three captivating sessions were presented, welcoming 50 guests for this unique, one-of-a-kind UK-Korea teatime. Chef Bomee Ki introduced each session and discussed the origins and inspiration behind the specially curated mignardises.

Soojeong Na

LITERATURE AND NON-FICTION

KOREAN LITERATURE NIGHT

Korean Cultural Centre UK

02.2023 → 07.2023

The Korean Literature Night (KLN) is a regular book talk that explores various themes and topics related to a chosen book, in 2023 we welcomed scholars and authors to discuss their recent works at six events during the year.

Shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, the author of *Whale* Myeong-Kwan Cheon and the translator Chi-Young Kim filled the KCCUK with an enthralling introduction to the nominated work. We were also joined by author Sang-Young Park and translator Anton Hur as part of their UK tour for the acclaimed *Love in the Big City*.

With Korean literature gaining in popularity and more and more books being translated and released internationally, our Korean Literature Night continues to go from strength to strength.

Soojeong Na



©Chris Jeongmin Lee

KOREAN CULTURE MONTH

Foyles, Charing Cross Road

01.10.2023 → 04.11.2023

As part of our successful outreach programme, the Korean Cultural Centre held a month-long event in partnership with Foyles on the Charing Cross Road. Throughout the iconic flagship store, traditional cultural items were displayed so that visitors could see and experience a flavour of Korea while they browsed Foyle's wide selection of Korean literature.

The programme saw Nayoung Wooh introducing her highly successful illustrated books that include paintings of western characters wearing hanbok. There was an in-person livestream event with the author of *Whale* Myeong-Kwan Cheon as well as a hugely popular screening of the K-drama series *Recipe for Farewell*, which is famously based on a Korean essay.

2023 marked the 3rd year that the KCCUK and Foyles have collaborated on the Korean Culture Month. With each year growing bigger and better than before, the event is becoming a much-anticipated event in our cultural calendar.

Soojeong Na





K-SEMINAR SERIES

Korean Cultural Centre UK

09.2023 → 12.2023

Hallyu, the Korean Wave continues to thrive in the UK, increasingly fuelled by the infectious energy of K-Pop and captivating Korean dramas, there is an increased interest in everything Korean. As part of the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and the UK the KCCUK organised a K-Seminar series, inviting experts in Korean culture, arts, and history to deliver in-depth insights into their specialist fields.

Through the K-Seminar series, experts in various fields related to Korea had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with audiences allowing for a deeper exploration of Korean culture.

Inhong Song

KOREAN LANGUAGE COURSE

Online

28.01.2023 → 17.11.2023

Running continuously since 2009, the Korean language course is one of the Korean Cultural Centre's longest running events. During the pandemic, it transitioned to an online class, a format that continued into 2023.

With the growing popularity of the Korean Wave, there's been an increasing demand for learning Korean, resulting in a rise in institutions and programmes offering Korean language education.

The KCCUK's Korean Language course is designed for all students and utilises textbooks from the King Sejong Institute. It is structured into four levels: Sejong 1 (Beginner), Sejong 2 (Pre-Intermediate), Sejong 3 (Intermediate), and Sejong 4 (Advanced).

140

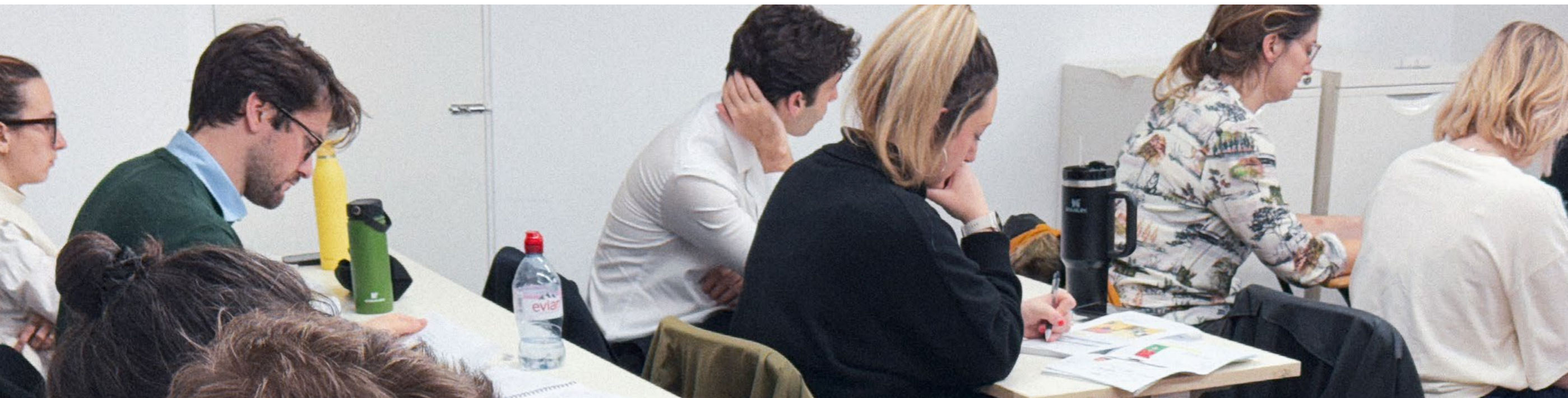
Audience

95%

Satisfaction Survey Result

The Korean language course at the KCCUK consists of three semesters, each lasting 11 weeks. In 2023, a total of 140 individuals enrolled, with 88 participants successfully completing it. Over 95% of the participants expressed their desire to continue learning Korean at the KCCUK in 2024. In 2024, the online classes have been replaced with in-person sessions.

Inhong Song



WHERE OXFORD MEETS KOREA: The Walking Tour

Oxford

22.10.2023

Since 2021, the Korean Cultural Centre has brought Korea to UK audiences with exclusive Walking Tours showcasing Korean history, culture, food and more at various locations across the United Kingdom.

In October, we held a walking tour in Oxford that uncovered the hidden stories of Korean history and arts in this ancient city. With 2023 marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War's conclusion, the tour stopped by the St Mary Magdalen Church to commemorate the bravery of the British and Commonwealth soldiers who fought in the conflict. Guided by a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, further stops included The Sheldonian Theatre, Bodleian Library, The Oxford Union, and much more.

After hosting successful Walking Tours in London, the Korean Cultural Centre expanded the tours to further parts of the UK. Oxford became the third destination following previous tours in Belfast and Edinburgh. As the walking tour is a fun and interesting way to explore the relationship between the UK and Korea, the KCCUK will continue to bring more tours to different parts of the UK in the future.

Soojeong Na



KOREA DAY FESTIVAL

29 April, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield

3 June, York St John University, York

11 October, University of Central Lancashire, Preston

14 October, University of Oxford, Oxford

Our *Korea Day Festival* is an outreach programme that provides participatory one-day festivals across the UK for the public to experience various aspects of Korean culture. The festival is organised in collaboration with Korean students' associations, Korean cultural societies, K-Pop communities and university faculties.

Festival-goers immersed themselves in K-Pop, learned the beautiful Hangeul script, savoured delicious Korean cuisine, and were captivated by the enchanting sounds of Gugak. These are just a few highlights of the many cultural activities that help the Korea Day Festivals bring Korea to the UK.

1,300 Audience

2,784 KCCUK Social Media Engagement

88% Satisfaction Survey Result

Rachel Minjeong Chang
Yeojeong Min



HALLYU CON

Korean Cultural Centre UK & Samsung KX

16.09.2023 → 14.10.2023

Held from 16 September to 14 October at the KCCUK and Samsung KX, *Hallyu Con 2023 - Where Korea Meets You* showcased the vibrant and multifaceted world of Korean culture, bringing together a diverse audience of 700 attendees with a further 7 million more engaging online.

Hosted by the Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) and The Korean Wave Communities (MyWave Collective, Radio Kimchi UK, The K-Way and AZIZA), the event showcased a vibrant blend of educational and experiential programmes that invited the audience to embark on a captivating journey through Korean culture like never before.

From immersive Hallyu Experience Sessions to engaging workshops, the event fostered cultural connectivity and exchange and enabled attendees to gain invaluable insights and experiences. This celebration of hallyu not only promoted cultural appreciation but also inspired meaningful connections among participants of all ages and backgrounds.



Attendees enjoyed a wide range of immersive experiences, including Korean calligraphy and Gayageum workshops, traditional dance showcases and a K-Pop & K-Hip Hop Silent Disco. Highlights included engaging booths and activities, captivating performances from various Korean artists (including singer-songwriter G.Soul's) and an insightful panel discussion. The event was also supported by numerous brands (both local and Korean-based such as Bibigo) and attracted the attention of numerous news outlets and media platforms, further amplifying its impact and reach.

Inhong Song





K-POP ACADEMY

Korean Cultural Centre UK

15.04.2023 → 03.06.2023

Since its inception in 2012, The K-Pop Academy (KPA) has been London's gateway to discovering the vibrant heart of Korea. Presented by a range of renowned experts this culture course for young adults gives participants the opportunity to discover all about Korean culture whilst making like-minded friends and developing an affinity with Korea that will last a lifetime.

In 2023, The K-Pop Academy celebrated its twenty second edition, through this eight-week immersive programme 30 students embarked upon on the latest stage of their hallyu journey.

Each K-Pop Academy ends with a 'graduation' ceremony, but the journey of discovering Korea doesn't end there for the students, it is just the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Korea.

Inhong Song

Promoting Korean Football in the UK

Coventry | London | Cardiff

19.02.2023 | 29.04.2023 | 07.09.2023

In 2023, the Korean Cultural Centre UK hosted several football related events including supporting events for Korea's national teams. Supporters joined us to support and cheer the South Korean women's football team who were participating in the Arnold Clark Cup. A further special event was organised to support the South Korean men's football team who travelled to the UK to play a friendly match against Wales. The supporters also travelled to watch South Korean players in the English domestic leagues, including the Women's Super League.

The 2023 events saw positive outcomes for Korean football in the UK. Korean expatriates enthusiastically supported the South Korean women's team at the Arnold Clark Cup, showcasing strong community backing. Encouraging the South Korean men's team during their match with Wales fostered goodwill and camaraderie between the nations. Friendly matches between Wales and South Korean supporters facilitated cultural exchange and strengthened bilateral relations. Attending matches of South Korean female players in British leagues raised awareness and appreciation for women's football. These initiatives collectively enhanced the visibility and recognition of Korean football in the UK.

Inhong Song



THE UK KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S CUP: Taekwondo & Korean Martial Arts

Surrey Sports Park, Guildford

02.07.2023

The 6th edition of the UK Korean Ambassador's Cup: Taekwondo & Korean Martial Arts, was a prestigious event that celebrated traditional Korean martial arts. Set against the backdrop of the rising popularity of Korean culture and Hallyu in Britain, the competition served as a significant platform for cultural exchange between Korea and the UK.

Organised by esteemed organisations like KMAMA, the event highlighted the values of perseverance and an indomitable spirit inherent in Taekwondo. As the event also commemorated the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and the UK, it underscored the importance of sports in fostering exchange and cooperation between our nations. Participants were reminded that true victory lay not only in the results but also in the sportsmanship displayed throughout the competition.

Competitors showcased their skills and spirit, embodying the essence of Taekwondo. The event saw remarkable performances, reflecting the dedication, training, and passion of the participants for Korean traditional martial arts. Despite the intense competition, the true winners emerged through their exemplary sportsmanship and adherence to the values of Taekwondo. The championship further strengthened cultural ties between Korea and the UK, underscoring the significance of sports as a bridge for international cooperation and understanding.

Inhong Song





THE OULIM IN LONDON

Saachi Gallery | The Outernet

28.10.2023 → 05.11.2023

The Oulim in London was an immersive art exhibition that showcased the splendour of K-Content, including K-Pop, K-dramas, games, fashion, and music. The artworks in this exhibition were presented using audio-visual technology that included AI, metaverse, NFT, VR and media art, each inspired by Oulim (어울림), the Korean concept of harmony.

Organised by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korea Creative Content Agency, the very best of contemporary tech-related art was shown with iconic artists such as BTS, BLACKPINK, NCT, aespa, Stray Kids, IVE, and ATEEZ.



2023 saw new partnerships for the Korean Cultural Centre UK, not least a shared partnership that explored K-Content. Running for 8 days only, 20 companies were showcased alongside 80 artworks. It was the first time to show such a variety of K-Content in the UK, most notably the weekend slots were sold out, resulting in long queues for some of the displays.



SEOUL ARTS CENTER ON SCREEN

Korean Cultural Centre UK

29.09.2023 | 17.10.2023

In this programme the Korean Cultural Centre UK brings Korean performances to the screen in partnership with the Seoul Arts Center (SAC). The SAC on Screen is a performing arts screening production organised by the Seoul Arts Center, enabling audiences to enjoy outstanding cultural arts content worldwide.

To celebrate Chuseok, *Shim Chung*, a ballet based on a Korean folktale was screened at the KCCUK. In October, the Yun Posun House Concert was screened which had been originally presented at the 17th Seoul Spring Festival of Chamber Music in 2022.

As the UK is renowned for its event cinema, the Korean Cultural Centre UK wanted to share high quality contents from Korea in a cinematic format. The selection includes a familiar genre in the UK but with a unique Korean take on it.

Adieu 2023

Eunji Lee

As the film curator at the Korean Cultural Centre UK, it's an honour to be part of a community so passionate about the artistry and storytelling prowess of Korean cinema. Our mission here is simple yet profound: to immerse ourselves in the vibrant tapestry of Korean films, fostering appreciation and understanding among audiences of all backgrounds. Through our carefully curated screenings, discussions, and events, we aim to showcase the range, depth, and cultural significance of Korean cinema while providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and exchange.

Jaeyeon Park

For the past exhilarating decade, it has been my pleasure to curate dynamic performance programmes, featuring events like the K-Music Festival and A Festival of Korean Dance from the Korean Cultural Centre in London. These initiatives have allowed me to showcase a rich variety of Korean productions, captivating audiences throughout the UK. In 2023, I found myself reflecting on the incredible growth and global recognition of Korean culture beyond K-Pop over the past decade. It's been an inspiring journey, made possible by the collaboration of esteemed cultural institutions in the UK, including the renowned Barbican, The Place and The Lowry. Together, we've had the privilege of showcasing outstanding Korean works across various disciplines, earning heartfelt praise from our audiences. As we look ahead, my dedication to bringing innovative and awe-inspiring Korean creations to British audiences remains unwavering. We are committed to crafting programmes that not only entertain but also nurture a deep cultural exchange between Korea and the UK. Your continued interest and support are invaluable to us as we embark on this thrilling journey together.

Yoonseo Jung

This year, I was honoured to join the KCCUK team and be thrust right into the heart of the action, participating in the intense preparations for the State Visit just days after arriving in London from Seoul. Seeing the Korean national flags lining The Mall was a powerful reminder of my incredible fortune to witness this historic event firsthand. In such a short time, I've had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful people, and I'm incredibly grateful for their warmth and support. As we turn the page to 2024, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our events this past year, and a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time. I'm brimming with excitement to see what incredible events await the KCCUK and all of us in the year ahead!

Hea Su Lee

2023 was special for me not just because it was my first year at the KCCUK, but it was filled with unforgettable events, meetings, and wonderful people. Walking along the Mall seeing it lined with Korean and Union flags, the intense 24 hours of media work during the State Visit, seeing tears and cheers from the audiences of the performances, and lots of giggles and conversations in the office, 2023 was full of joy and support. As a Communications Manager, it was an honour to be part of the journey to present the very best of Korea, and the KCCUK will continue to bring you the best experiences. Stay tuned!

Soojeong Na

Organising such a wide variety of events from food demonstrations and classes, talks, lectures, film screenings, to walking tours to name just a few was always going to be a challenge but was one that I enjoyed thoroughly. Presenting and managing 13 events whilst supporting the work of the State Visit ensured that 2023 would be a year I will not forget in a hurry. None of it would have been possible without the support of so many wonderful partner organisations in the UK whose passion for Korea is unrivalled. It was my pleasure to work with so many great partners and artists whose support ensured that the busy year went so smoothly.

Inhong Song

The opportunity to meet so many people in 2023 who were interested in learning about Korea through the Korean language courses, K-Pop Academy, and the K-Seminar series as well as supporting Korea sports fans in the UK was incredibly special. By interacting with people who are eager to learn about Korea, I was able to learn about what aspects of Korean culture appeals to them most and how Korean culture has influenced their lives. These invaluable experiences have inspired me greatly, and I will use them to continue to promote Korean culture through new and exciting programmes in 2024.

Rachel Minjeong Chang

2023 has been a memorable year for me. Although the first half of the year was quite challenging, I was able to meet other colleagues from the European Korean Cultural Centres for the first time in Vilnius in July, spent the most sparkling two weeks of the summer supporting the Korean performers at the Edinburgh International Festival in August, and worked with the best team ever on the momentous State Visit in November. I am very much looking forward to seeing the KCCUK's 2024 plans unfold for what will be another spectacular year for Korea in the UK.

Annual Review 2023

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Write: Permissions, Korean Cultural Centre UK, Grand Buildings,
1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5BW OR info@kccuk.org.uk

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Korean Cultural Centre UK

Location Korean Cultural Centre UK, Grand Buildings, 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5BW

Contact +44 (0)20 7004 2600 | info@kccuk.org.uk

Social Media - **IG** @kccuk | **FB** @kccuk | **YT** @thekccuk | **TW** @kccuk

Website www.kccuk.org.uk



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