

KOREAN CULTURAL CENTRE UK



한국문화원

Korean Cultural Centre

WELCOME

The global network of Korean Cultural Centers are operated by the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS), an arms-length organisation launched in 1971 by the Korean government. The Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) is just one of 32 centres that operate in 27 countries worldwide, each providing opportunities to experience the broadest range of Korean culture first-hand.

Since 2008, the KCCUK has been dedicated to promoting friendship and understanding between Korea and the UK through various programmes of cultural activities and events. These include visual arts, performing arts, music, literature, food and film, as well as education programmes that aim to deepen the knowledge of Korean heritage, history and culture.

Each year the KCCUK collaborates with dozens of UK arts institutions and their counterparts in Korea to produce an exciting range of exhibitions and performing arts events for the enjoyment of audiences across the UK. Alongside these, the KCCUK also organises the London Korean Film Festival and the ever-popular K-Music Festival.

KOREAN CULTURE

For over 4,000 years Korea has developed cultural assets whilst retaining their long-held traditions to create what is now a modern Korea that is both dynamic and unique.

The nation has preserved a wealth of priceless cultural heritage, some of which has been inscribed on the lists of human legacies protected by UNESCO. Currently over 50 Korean heritage items are listed either as *World Heritage Sites*, *Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity* or have been included on UNESCO's *Memory of the World Register*.

In contemporary Korea, the nation's cultural and creative industries are as rich as they are diverse. They consist of, but are not confined to K-pop, music, art, architecture, fashion, cuisine, dance, literature, film, language and many more that are each inspired by a delightful combination of tradition and modernity.

With such a strong cultural backdrop Korean culture is becoming increasingly more appreciated around the world, and this recognition is inspiring the next generation of young artistic talent to take their place on the world's stage.



Munbangsan Exhibition (2018)
Photo by Kiji Studios & Photography



Korean Sounds (2016)
Photo by Kiji Studios & Photography

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VISUAL ARTS

The KCCUK introduces and exhibits some of the most exciting contemporary Korean artists, whilst also introducing traditional Korean arts and crafts to wider audiences. Exhibitions are often presented in collaboration with arts institutions in the UK and Korea. In recent years, the KCCUK's visual arts department has worked in an increasingly collaborative way to present exhibitions in conjunction with other UK institutions such as Art Night, British Museum, the ICA, Ikon Gallery, Spike Island, Tate Modern, The Showroom, V&A, and Whitechapel Gallery.

Since 2014, the KCCUK has produced an 'Artist of the Year' exhibition, showcasing the work of a Korean artist who has made a significant impact on the contemporary art world. Previous exhibitions have included Yunchul Kim (2018), Kim Yong-Ik (2017), Koo Jeong A (2016), Sora Kim (2015) and Lee Bul (2014). The KCCUK also presents programmes such as Curatorial Lab, Korean Crafts, Emerging Artists Support Programme and ARTTALK along with partnerships with institutions both in the UK and Korea.



Lee Bul, Artist of the Year (2014)
Preview Night, Installation view
Photo by Junyong Cho

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Since 2014, the KCCUK has produced the 'Artist of the Year' exhibition, each year showcasing the work of a Korean artist who has made a significant impact on the contemporary art world. Previous exhibitions have included Yunchul Kim (2018), Kim Yong-Ik (2017), Koo Jeong A (2016), Sora Kim (2015) and Lee Bul (2014).



Kim Yong-Ik, *Triptych* (1970-2015), Installation view,
I Believe My Works Are Still Valid, Spike Island, Bristol (2017)

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, private collection,
Seoul and DSL Collection, Paris. Photograph by Imogen Bastone

Inventing Temperature (2014) Preview night, Installation view of Chosil Kil, Photo by KCCUK



CURATORIAL LAB

Curatorial lab is a research-focused exhibition programme that explores artistic and curatorial possibilities that go beyond the dichotomy of theory and practice. It often takes the form of a group exhibition, highlighting urgent issues in contemporary artistic and curatorial practices.

CRAFTS & DESIGN

The KCCUK's Korean Crafts introduces the long history of Korean contemporary crafts. This programme is expected to help expand the audience for Korean culture in the UK by introducing some of Korea's most unique traditions. Since 2017, the KCCUK has worked closely with London Craft Week and the Cheongju International Craft Biennale and the Korea Craft & Design Foundation to present collaborative exhibitions that explore some of Korea's finest crafts.



*Between Serenity and Dynamism (2017)
Photo by KCCUK*

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

The KCCUK's visual arts programmes are often presented in collaboration with arts institutions in the UK and Korea. Recent collaborations and partnerships include co-curated exhibitions, residency programmes, artist talks and seminars in conjunction with other UK institutions such as Art Night, Delfina Foundation, Hayward Gallery, Ikon Gallery, Serpentine Galleries, The Showroom, Spike Island, V&A and the Whitechapel Gallery.

The KCCUK will continue to introduce and exhibit the most exciting Korean artists to reach wider audiences and always welcomes collaboration proposals by arts institutions from across the UK.



EMERGING ARTISTS SUPPORT PROGRAMME



The KCCUK visual arts programme is dedicated to providing a springboard within the UK's competitive art scene for emerging Korean artists. This Emerging Artists Support Programme often takes the form of exhibitions and residencies in collaboration with organisations across the UK.

Yeji Kim, Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things (2017)
Photo by KCCUK



ARTTALK

CONTEMPORARY KOREAN ART TODAY

In collaboration with a selection of the UK's most distinguished arts and cultural institutions, ARTTALK: Contemporary Korean Art Today provides a platform to explore and understand Korea's prominent and emerging artists and their practice. Using recent exhibitions in the UK as a backdrop, art talks at the KCCUK have featured artists such as Lee Ufan and Park Seo-Bo alongside curators and critics of international standing who have offered audiences an extended opportunity to learn more about Korea's art scene right in the heart of London.

Lee Ufan in Conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist (2018), Photo by Ben Axtell

MUSIC



Above: Black String and Kathryn Tickell, K-Music Festival (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography

Left: Korean Sounds (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography



Traditional Korean music (Gugak) has a very long and detailed history dating back over a millennium and to this day maintains several assets ranging from the long-standing traditions of court, folk and contemporary music. In the late 19th century, Western classical music started to permeate Korea's musical culture, and in recent years Korea's musicians have been regularly seen performing at and winning major events and international competitions. In modern times, Korean pop music or K-Pop has become very popular across the globe. The Korean Wave, cultivated by K-Pop's international popularity over the last ten years has now expanded to Korea's independent music which is finding more listeners in the west.

The KCCUK introduces a wide landscape of Korean music through a series of regular and ad-hoc musical programmes, these include the K-Music Festival, the K-Music Showcase, the KCC House Concerts and Korean Sounds.

K-MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since its launch in 2013, this annual celebration of K-Music has given audiences the chance to see and hear a stunning selection of traditional and current music from all across the musical spectrum.

With many exciting collaborative projects in the programme, K-Music continues to produce unique events with UK artists, as well as exhilarating experiments that combine western and eastern sounds.

The Barberettes, K-Music Showcase (2017)
Photo by Kiti Studios & Photography



Youn Sun Nah, K-Music Festival (2016)
Photo by Kiti Studios & Photography





K-MUSIC SHOWCASE

Each year the KCCUK in partnership with The Great Escape and Sound City Festivals, produces its K-Music Showcase presenting exciting Korean bands in London before they embark upon the UK festival circuit.

In 2018, the KCCUK worked alongside Rich Mix to produce the showcase as part of their Culture for a Changing City initiative to bring international artists to a regional audience and different cultures and communities together.

KOREAN SOUNDS

Launched in 2016 at Kings Place, Korean Sounds: East Meets West presents a rare opportunity for audiences to hear both traditional Korean and Western classical music in one place. The East Meets West series is specifically designed to give audiences the chance to listen to both European and Korean music of either similar sentiment, character and purpose, or music from the same historical period so as to explore what is common in both musical worlds as well as reveal how they differ.



Above: Korean Sounds (2016)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography

Left: Korean Sounds (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography



Korean Sounds (2017)
Photo by Kiri Studios & Photography

KCC HOUSE CONCERT

Our House Concert was initially designed in 2016 to support UK based classical music talent from Korea. The series presents a wide-ranging programme of ensemble performances that shine a spotlight on talented young musicians. The House Concert series has been curated in partnership with the Royal College of Music, The Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal Academy of Music.

PERFORMING ARTS

From Daehak-ro, Seoul an area renowned for performing arts and a home to more than 150 theatre companies, Korean's performing arts scene continues to grow. To further support this local scene, the Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS) annually host PAMS (Performing Arts Market) in Seoul to assist with the international distribution and export of the companies' works worldwide.

Over the years the KCCUK has developed partnerships with some of the UK's leading cultural institutions, such as The Place, Dance Umbrella, Greenwich and Docklands International Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, LIFT and Meltdown Festival – each introducing various events from contemporary dance to large-scale theatrical works.



A FESTIVAL OF KOREAN DANCE

From 2018, the KCCUK, working in partnership with The Place, a national centre for contemporary dance in London created 'A Festival of Korean Dance'. The festival has been curated around a programme of the finest Korean Contemporary dance pieces to give UK audiences the opportunity to experience the diversity of Korea's dance scene. In 2018 the exciting programme presented a range of dance from contemporary to Hip Hop, including the first-ever UK appearance by the Korean National Contemporary Dance Company as well as four independent dance companies.



Jin Yeob Cha X Yakkı, *Riverun*
Photo by IRO

LIFT

London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) is recognised as one of the world's leading arts festivals, introducing theatre from over sixty countries to venues and unusual sites across London since 1981. In 2018, *Trojan Women* produced by the National Changgeuk Company of Korea presented an opening evening at the Southbank Centre in London.

THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE LONDON SHOWCASE

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe London Showcase is an exciting sneak peek at some of the performances from Korea that will be presented at the upcoming Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The EFF is one of the biggest celebrations of arts and culture on the planet. Every year more than twenty companies from Korea take part in the festival.



National Changgeuk Company of Korea,
Trojan Women (2018)

Lyon Eun Kwon's *Glori*,
A Festival of Korean Dance (2018)
Photo by Kiti Studios & Photography



Jin Yeob Cha, A Festival of Korean Dance (2018)
Photo by Kiti Studios & Photography



DANCE UMBRELLA

Dance Umbrella is London's international dance festival which holds a unique place in the dance landscape of the UK. Founded in 1978, Dance Umbrella has brought outstanding dance to London for more than 40 years. In 2017, Dance Umbrella presented *Let Me Change Your Name* (Eun-Me Ahn) in partnership with The Place supported by Center Stage Korea, Korea Arts Management Services, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the KCCUK.

FILM



London Korean Film Festival (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography

It is not only within Korea itself that home-grown cinema has been increasing its foothold (domestic shares rose by almost 50% last year) - 2017 also saw worldwide Korean film exports grow more than 17%. The prominence of Korean film in the UK has continued to grow since the mid-2000s, with directors such as the prolific Hong Sang-soo becoming household names, and Park Chan-wook's

The Handmaiden now the first ever Korean-language entry to win a BAFTA, 2018 is set to be another exciting year for Korea on the British big-screen. Online presence is also expanding; this year Netflix picked up a number of Korean titles, including director Yeon Sang-ho's *Train to Busan* follow-up *Psychokinesis*, leaving no doubt about international confidence in the quality of Korean cinema.



LONDON KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

The London Korean Film Festival (LKFF) is the UK's leading showcase of Korean cinema, and with over 60 titles on offer annually, national press coverage and an ever-increasing audience, it's one of the largest festivals dedicated to a national cinema in the world. For over 10 years now the festival has introduced premiere screenings of major blockbusters to UK cinema screens while also incorporating the most engaging Indie hits, Documentaries, Animation, Shorts, Classics and more within its diverse programme.

Kim Saebyuk, London Korean
Film Festival (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography



London Korean Film Festival (2017)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography





LKFF Teaser Screening (2016)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography

LKFF TEASER SCREENINGS

Extending the work of and then building up to the annual London Korean Film Festival in the autumn, the Teaser Screenings showcase a diverse range of contemporary Korean cinema across the year. The screenings are scheduled to take place monthly on Mondays at either Regent Street Cinema or Picturehouse Central in London as well as the Arts Picturehouse Cambridge.



KOREAN FILM NIGHTS

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 (including migration, protest and horror cinema) and is put together in collaboration with external partners to bring fresh insight and diversity to the programme.

KOREAN FILM NIGHTS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

This monthly programme expands upon KFN by taking its screenings to venues outside of the KCCUK in order to meet and engage with new audiences. Key partners on this adventure have so far included the award-winning Deptford Cinema and The University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Korean Film Nights (2018)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography



Korean Film Nights programme brochures (2017)
Photo by KCCUK

LITERATURE



Korean literature
Photo by KCCUK

Korea has always had a robust market for literature, with each generation creating a new stand-out author or poet. In the UK, with the 2014 London Book Fair's Market Focus on Korea the British publishing industry was formally introduced to Korean literature.

Since then, translated Korean literature has continued to see rising sales in the UK, especially the novelist Han Kang. Han Kang became a household name when she won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize for her novel *The Vegetarian* – an award that saw many in Korea re-visit the book, which pushed sales to over 680,000 copies in Korea alone. For those who have read *The Vegetarian*, it came as no surprise when Han Kang was shortlisted once more in 2018 for The Man Booker International Prize, this time with *The White Book*.

The KCCUK regularly holds and supports Korean literary and academic events to raise awareness of Korean literature and writers in the UK as well as to reach out to potential readers. The Korean Literature programme therefore provides a valuable opportunity for UK audiences and publishers to meet and interact with Korean authors and translators.

KOREAN LITERATURE NIGHTS

Established in 2014, the Korean Literature Night (KLN) is a monthly discussion group and book club that explores various themes and topics relating to that month's chosen book from Korea.

WINDOW ON KOREA

The National Library of Korea and the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford agreed an MOU for the donation of Korean books under the name 'Window on Korea' in 2013.

Since 2016, the National Library of Korea and the KCCUK have organised a series of Korean literature related activities, such as book clubs and translation workshops, for the visitors to the 'Window on Korea' at the Bodleian Libraries and for Korean Studies students at the University of Oxford.

AUTHOR'S TALK

Author's Talk is a programme that brings together writers from the UK and Korea, expert panellists, translators and editors. The writers represent the very best of the country's contemporary literature and the diversity of contemporary Korean writing across a range of themes and formats.

KOREAN NOVELS ON SCREEN

In 2018, the Korean Novels on Screen programme features a series films, old and new that are based on novels by Korean writers.



Korean Novels on Screen (2018)
Photo by Kii Studios & Photography

K-Culture Workshop (2016) Gayageum Class
Photo by KCCUK



EDUCATION

In the UK, there are several Korean language and culture courses about K-culture. For Korean language courses King's College, LSE, Imperial, Surrey and Sheffield Universities are some of the few places that have courses connected to Korea. Two adult education centres, Morley College and Hammersmith and Fulham Adult Learning and Skills Service (HFALS) also offer Korean language courses.

The KCCUK also presents language courses and culture programmes, these include the K-Pop Academy and food programmes for individuals to gain hands on experience of Korean culture and language.

KOREAN LANGUAGE COURSE

KING SEJONG INSTITUTE

In the UK, there are presently three branches of the King Sejong Institute, these are operated by the KCCUK, SOAS University of London and the Korean Education Centre UK. The Korean language course at the KCCUK is a social education course that not only teaches the Korean language but also introduces Korean culture to students. The course includes a wider introduction to all aspects of Korean culture and the basics of Korean.



Patchwork culture class at
Sunbury Embroidery Gallery (2017)
Photo by KCCUK

KOREAN CULTURE COURSES

The Korean Culture courses give more opportunities for people to enjoy K-culture in a little more depth. The courses cover Korean patch work, taekwondo, gayageum, and Korean cuisine. From 2017, our Korean Culture courses have been held at the Kingston Adult Education Centre and HFALS (Hammersmith and Fulham Adult Learning and Skills Service).



The 13th K-Pop Academy (2017)
Taekwondo Class
Photo by KCCUK

THE K-POP ACADEMY

Since 2012, the 'K-Pop Academy' has given K-Pop fans a firm grounding in the development of the K-Pop phenomenon as well as an introduction to many interesting topics including Korea's history, arts, language and food. Running twice a year with thirty students each term, this ten-week course features special guests and speakers each week and provides students with opportunities to participate in various activities related to a Korean topic.

KOREAN TEMPLE FOOD

In 2018, the KCCUK introduced Korean Temple Food to London with a series of events and demonstrations with the Buddhist nun and chef, Woo Kwan.

For over 1,700 years, in Buddhist temples across Korea, monks and nuns have prepared meals using only fresh, seasonal vegetables in accordance with Buddhist principles.

Made with no animal products, Temple Food forbids the use of five pungent vegetables (onions, garlic, chives, green onions and leeks) and only natural seasoning is used.



Woo Kwan's A Culinary Journey into Korean Temple Food (2018)
Photo by Kit Studios & Photography

K-Cuisine Workshop at Westminster Kingsway College (2016)
Photo by KCCUK



K-CUISINE WORKSHOP

The K-Cuisine Workshop at Westminster Kingsway College introduces many aspects of Korean cuisine. The demonstrations on how to prepare Korean dishes, including Kimchi and fermented sauces have proved especially popular.

FESTIVALS

LONDON KOREAN FESTIVAL

Following the incredible success of the 2015 London Korean Festival in Trafalgar Square, Korea's biggest and most exciting family day returned to the capital once more. The London Korean Festival 2017 officially launched the UK programme of the Korea/UK 2017-18, a season that encouraged greater cultural exchange between Korea and the UK.

The 2017 festival offered breath-taking performances, taking in everything from Korea's oldest traditions to the latest K-Pop hits. The programme included a dynamic drum performance, a Taekwondo martial arts demonstration, a B-boy dance performance, cultural workshops and exhibitions on Korean food and tourism, as well as a K-Pop evening concert with four idol groups including Highlight and EXID. The day proved hugely popular, bringing 12,000 people to Olympia, London.

London Korean Festival (2017)
Photo by KCOUK





London Korean Festival (2015)
Photo by KCCUK



Korea Day at the Octagon Centre, Sheffield (2018)
Photo by KCCUK



Korea Day at Nottingham Lakeside Arts (2018)
Photo by KCCUK



KOREA DAY

'Korea Day' is a touring programme that brings Korea to UK cities. In 2018, numerous cultural programmes filled the Octagon Centre in Sheffield and Nottingham Lakeside Arts with a unique Korean vibe, these included traditional Korean costumes, games, handicrafts, calligraphy as well as Korean food and Korean make-up sessions.



Korea Day at the Octagon Centre, Sheffield (2018)
Photo by KCCUK

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEWSLETTER

Get our most up-to-date programme information delivered to your inbox.

Subscribe to receive free updates about our programme and/or bi-weekly newsletter.

The KCCUK's bi-weekly newsletter is packed full of news related to Korean culture. If you want to subscribe to our mailing list, please visit our website at www.kccuk.org.uk or alternatively send an email to info@kccuk.org.uk

FACILITIES

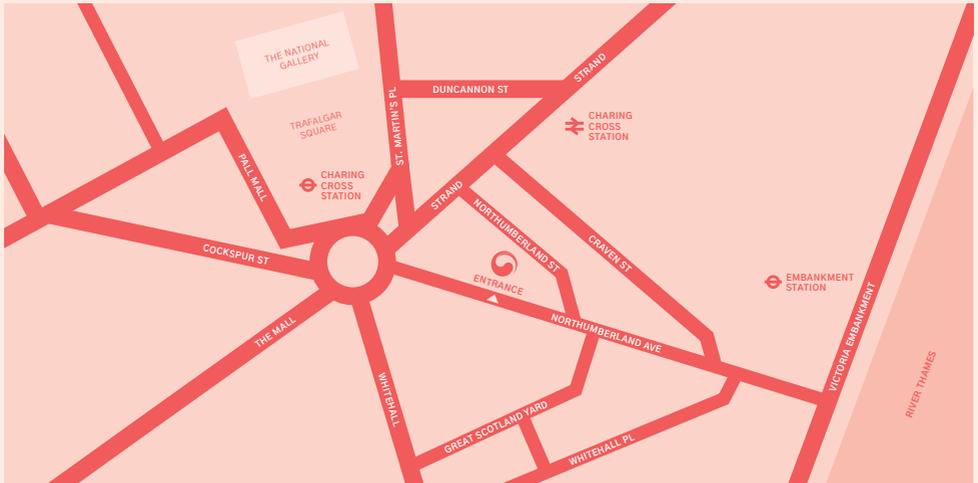
- KCC SPACE
(240m², Exhibition area)
- KCC HALL
(Concert, Reception)
- KCC Theatre
(100 seats with 150" screen)
- KCC Library
(2,500 books)
- Lecture Room
(20 seats, 60" TV)

VENUE HIRE

- Can be hired for free as long as the event is connected to Korea and Korean Culture
- Advance booking necessary
(Minimum 1 month)



FIND US



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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday
10:00 – 18:00

Saturday
11:00 – 17:00

LOCAL STATIONS

Charing Cross
Embankment

 facebook.com/kccuk

 instagram.com/kccuk

 twitter.com/kccuk

 youtube.com/thekccuk

 flickr.com/photos/kccuk

London Korean Festival at Olympia (2017)
Photo by KCCUK

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