



# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



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## KOREAN ART IN THE WEST TRACING OBJECTS FROM CREATION TO COLLECTION

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH  
26-27 JUNE, 2019



**UZH FOUNDATION**  
Die Stiftung der Universität Zürich



KOREA **KF**  
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## Symposium abstract

Objects from East Asia can be found in many museums and private collections throughout the world. Objects of art travel change ownership and acquire new meanings and functions. Sometimes they are subjects of evaluations and victims of cultural clichés. Igor Kopytoff in his seminal essay “The Cultural Biography of Things” proposes to treat objects as living beings with distinct biographies and suggests a number of questions pertinent to their study: what were the circumstances and purposes of the production of the objects, how do the objects move and change in contexts of reception and use (Kopytoff 1986: 66).

The symposium aims to represent various case studies of Korean art in the West to create an overview of the state of research and methodologies in the field. It seeks to explore the trajectories of movement of Korean art in the past centuries and its reception outside of Korea. Our focus lies on the collecting practices, museum displays and cultural mediation, appropriations and uses of Korean art in the West, and on the comparative perspectives on similar processes in Korea.

The symposium is planned as part of a larger research project that includes an exhibition at the Historical and Ethnological Museum in St. Gallen entitled "Poesie der Farben" (“The Poetry of Colours”, held at the Historical and Ethnological Museum in St. Gallen, 2nd Sept 2017–10th June 2018), which was co-organised by the University of Zurich. The origin of this project lies in the efforts to include Korea more deeply in the study of East Asian art. Another purpose is to encourage further academic studies in Korean art, history and culture at the university level.

As the first symposium of its kind in bringing together Korean art scholars to Switzerland, it attempts to give a deeper insight into the collections of Korean art in Switzerland and other countries as well as to open a new field of public and academic interest in the study of Korea. The symposium can be seen as a keystone in Korean art studies in Switzerland. Furthermore, it seeks to make Korean art accessible to a wider audience and so to raise public interest and awareness of Korean art and culture. The symposium serves to illustrate the long-standing relations between Switzerland and Korea, and aims to reinforce these connections for the future.

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**University of Zurich, Room: RAA-G-01  
Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich**

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration for speakers**

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome from the University of Zurich (UZH) Organizers**

Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen (Section for East Asian Art, UZH)

with Natasha Fischer-Vaidya, PhD Candidate (Section for East Asian Art, UZH)

10:15 – 12:15 **Panel 1: Collectors and Collections, I**

**Chair:** Sabine Bradel, PhD Candidate, Section for East Asian Art, UZH

10:15 – 10:55 Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Section for East Asian Art, University of Zurich  
*Travelling Bowls: Social Lives of Korean Ceramics*

- 10:55 – 11:35 Prof. Dr. Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch, Free University of Berlin  
*A Semiotic Narrative Investigation on a Goryeo Illuminate Manuscript: The Dae Banggwangbul Hwaeomgyeong (Avatamsaka-sūtra), Vol.72, in the New York Public Library*
- 11:35 – 12:15 Prof. Dr. Seinosuke Ide, Kyushu University  
*Korean Paintings Amidst “Chinese-Style Paintings”: Japanese Reception and International Circulation of Paintings of Peninsular Origin*
- 12:15 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:00 – 15:20 **Panel 2: Receptions of Korean Art in the Museum Context**  
**Chair:** Dr. Alban von Stockhausen, Curator, Bern Historical Museum
- 14:00 – 14:40 Dr. Ariane Perrin, The Centre for Studies on China, Korea and Japan, UMR 8173  
*Shamanic Paintings of Chosŏn Korea: Tracing History from Collections back to Sacred Ritual Objects*
- 14:40 – 15:20 Dr. Patricia Frick, Curator, Museum of Lacquer Art, Muenster  
*Refined Craftsmanship and Exquisite Beauty – Goryeo Lacquer Artefacts in Western Collections*
- 15:20 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 – 16:20 **Welcoming Speeches**  
Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner (President, University of Zurich)  
His Excellency, Ambassador Kwon Haeryong (Embassy of the Republic of Korea)
- 16:20 – 17:20 **Keynote Speech**  
Dr. Eleanor Hyun, Curator of Korean Art, British Museum  
*Contexts: Korean Art and the British Museum*
- 17:20 ~ **Reception, Lichthof, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich**

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**University of Zurich, Room: RAA-G-01  
Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich**

- 10:00 – 12:00 **Panel 3: The Arts of the Goryeo and Joseon Periods**  
**Chair:** Rosa Jiyun Kim, PhD Candidate, Section for East Asian Art, UZH
- 10:00 – 10:40 Prof. Dr. Em. Sunpyo Hong, Director, Center for Art Studies, Korea  
*The Export of Korean Genre Paintings to the West in the Era of Port Openings: Representations of ‘Korean People’ in the Collections of Western Powers.*  
In Korean with English translation as a handout.

- 10:40 – 11:20 Prof. Dr. Namwon Jang, Ewha Womans University  
*The Characteristics of Korean Ceramics Collected by the West in Modern Times*
- 11:20 – 12:00 Prof. Dr. Woothak Chung, Dongguk University  
*Painting of Water-Moon Avalokiteśvara Bodhisattva in the Museo d'Arte Orientale Edoardo Chiossone in Genova, Italy*  
In Korean with English translation as a handout.
- 12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch Break**
- 13:30 – 15:30 **Panel 4: Korean Art in the Modern and Contemporary Period**  
**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Section for East Asian Art, UZH
- 13:30 – 14:10 Prof. Dr. Sunglim Kim, Dartmouth University  
*The Evolution of Landscape Painting (Sansuhwa) in the Art of Modern Korea*
- 14:10 – 14:50 Prof. Dr. Nancy Lin, Lawrence University  
*Exhibitions Abroad: Promoting a Master Narrative of Korean Art in the Postwar Period*
- 14:50 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30 – 17:30 **Panel 5: Collectors and Collections, II**  
**Chair:** Alina Martimyanova, PhD Candidate, Section for East Asian Art, UZH
- 15:30 – 16:10 Dr. Hyojin Lee, Lecturer, Heidelberg University  
*Arts, Diplomacy and History: Cultural Exchanges between Korea and Sweden*
- 16:10 – 16:50 Isabelle Leeman, Independent Researcher, Sweden and  
Michel Lee, Curator, Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Sweden  
*Tangible Memories and Intertwined Histories: Sweden-Korea Relations as Seen through the Collection of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities*
- 16:50 – 17:30 Rosa Jiyun Kim, PhD Candidate, Section for East Asian Art, University of Zurich  
*Collaborative Publications and Early Swiss Receptions of Korean Culture*
- 17:30 – 18:10 Natasha Fischer-Vaidya, PhD Candidate, Section for East Asian Art,  
University of Zurich  
*Swiss Collectors of Korean Art: Dr. Paul Ritter and Dr. Heinrich von Niederhäusern*
- 18:30 ~ **Dinner for speakers and staff**

The symposium is free and open to the public. No prior registration is required.  
Most presentations will be held in English. For presentations held in other languages English translations will be provided.

For questions, please contact the Section for East Asian Art: kgoa@khist.uzh.ch

The symposium is organized by the Section for East Asian Art, University of Zurich and is supported by the Korea Foundation and the University of Zurich Foundation (Hochschulstiftung). The organizers also thank the Bern Historical Museums for their kind permission to use the image for the conference.