

The Arts

The Korea Society introduces the traditional and contemporary arts of Korea to American audiences in collaboration with colleges and universities, theatres, museums, community organizations and schools throughout the United States.



The *Mansudaet'ak Kut* is one of the most elaborate of all Korean shamanic rituals. This celebration took place in Battery Park, New York in commemoration of the first anniversary of the 9/11 Tragedy.

THE ARTS

YI SANG COUNTS TO THIRTEEN

February 15-16 • Ithaca, NY

The Korea Society collaborated with Cornell University's Department of Asian Studies in presenting two performances of *Yi Sang Counts to Thirteen*. Written and directed by Sung Rno, this highly imaginative play is based on the life of Korean surrealist writer Yi Sang and recreates the ironic, existential and comic world of his abstract poems and dark stories. Winner of the 2001 FringeNYC Excellence for Overall Production Award, the play also enjoyed two successful runs Off Broadway in New York City. A Q&A session with the playwright, cast and technical staff followed the performances.



Yi Sang Counts to Thirteen



The International Sejong Soloists

A MUSICAL SALUTE TO THE YEAR OF JAPAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA NATIONAL EXCHANGE

February 21 • New York, NY

The Korea Society collaborated with the Japan Society and Salon DeVirtuosi in presenting a special program by the International Sejong Soloists to commemorate the joint hosting of the 2002 World Cup games by Korea and Japan. A conductorless string ensemble created in 1995 under the musical direction of Hyo Kang, today the

members of International Sejong Soloists hail from eight different nations. The program included compositions by Earl Kim, Toru Takemitsu, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Carl Maria von Weber. A solo by Ryo Sasaki on viola and a moving finale of Tchaikovsky's Serenade for String Orchestra in C Major, O. 48 transformed the evening into a celebration of artistry as well as intercultural harmony.



Clockwise: Taep'yongso Solo; traditional dancer Yang Sung Ok; haegum demonstration; and members of the audience perform on the changgo.

HANNURI ARTS GROUP: TRADITIONAL KOREAN MUSIC AND DANCE

May 19 • New York, NY

May 21 • Washington, DC

Nine well-known musicians and performers presented a Korean traditional performing arts program at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The performance featured court music and dance, *p'ansori* and performances on representative traditional Korean instruments. Performers included Ahn Suk Sun, designated Human Cultural Treasure for *p'ansori* by the Korean govern-

ment; Chung Jae Kook, the artistic director of the National Traditional Orchestra and Human Cultural Treasure for *p'iri* playing; Won Il, the composer and percussionist designated the Best Composer of the New Generation in 1995 by the Korea Culture and Arts Foundation; and members of Kim Duk Soo's internationally acclaimed Samullori group. All principal members of the Hannuri Arts Group are professors on the faculty of the School of Korean Traditional Arts at the Korean National University of the Arts. The school is the premier institution in the field of Korean traditional arts education in Korea. It is dedicated to



the dual objectives of conserving traditional arts and ensuring their creative transmission to future generations through the promotion of academic research and the enhancement of performing skills in the areas of instrumental music, voice and dance.

BITTERSWEET DREAMS: NEW YORK KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL 2002

August 16–23 • New York, NY

August 23–25 • Brooklyn, NY

The Korea Society was a sponsor of the second annual New York Korean film festival, programmed and presented by the Korean Film Forum. The festival was held at the Anthology Film Archives and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAM Rose Cinemas. This year's program featured twelve of the best contemporary South Korean films with English subtitles. The selected films explored universal concerns



Reception at the New York Korean Film Festival

of love, sex, class, crime, politics, age and gender by combining and crossing genres and styles. The films included:

Bungee Jumping of Their Own; The Butterfly; Friend; Guns & Talks; Happy End; My Beautiful Girl, Mari; No Blood, No Tears; Public Enemy; Sorum; Take Care of My Cat; Virgin Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors; and Waikiki Brothers. The festival also featured guest appearances by directors Kang Woo-Suk (*Public Enemy*) and Moon Seung-Wook (*Sorum*). Both directors participated in Q&A sessions after their screenings. In addition MTV News Team correspondent SuChin Pak gave the welcoming remarks at both the opening reception and screenings.



Mansudaek'ak kut

MANSUDAET'AK KUT: COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

September 13 • New York, NY

The *Mansudaet'ak Kut*, one of the most elaborate of all Korean shamanic rituals, was presented at the Verrazano Bosque in Battery Park in commemoration of the first anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11. This abbreviated version of the ritual was celebrated by the *Mansudaet'ak*

Preservation Group under the direction of the prominent male shaman, Jung Mun San. One of the most distinctive features of this *kut* is its focus on the prosperity and well being of the entire community, including both its living and deceased members. Accordingly, it is celebrated to ensure both the eternal repose of the deceased as well as the well being of the surviving community members.

Shaman Jung Mun San performing the *Mansudaet'ak kut*.

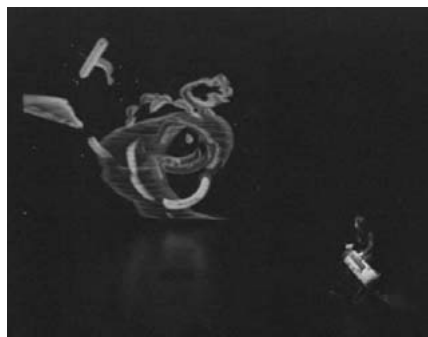


DONG DONG TOUCHING THE MOONS: A MULTI-MEDIA LIVE INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE

October 9 • Washington, DC

October 14 • Springfield, OH

The intersection of Western technology and Eastern mythology was explored in a contemporary lunar ritual entitled *Dong Dong Touching the Moons*, organized under the auspices of The Korea Society's Old Roots-New Branches Korean Performing Arts Series. The John F. Kennedy Center for the



Dong Dong Touching the Moons

Performing Arts in Washington, DC presented the first performance while the second was presented by Wittenberg University as part of its prestigious Wittenberg Series. *Touching the Moons* weaves and juxtaposes traditional Asian dance and music forms with cutting-edge technology to create a truly cross-cultural work both in form and subject. The piece combines Asian cosmic mythology with Western science's exploration of space as the "last great frontier." It deals with the various representations of the moon, especially the 15th-century Korean poetic homage to the

moon entitled *Dong Dong*. By juxtaposing ancient Asian lunar celebrations with scientific surveys of the solar system, the piece delves into the various characteristics, colors, cycles and formations of the

moons. *Touching the Moons* commissioned by the Kitchen in 2000 with major support from The National Endowment for the Arts in a consortium with Mass MoCA and the Inroads program of the

Ford Foundation, won the Wolff Ebermann Prize 2001 from the International Theater Institute (ITI) music theater committee in Munich, Germany.

YOOJIN CHUNG PERFORMS THE TALE OF HUNGBO

October 13 • New York, NY

In a program copresented with the American Museum of Natural History, Korean *p'ansori* artist



Yoojin Chung

supertitles specially prepared for the occasion by The Korea Society. Audience members commented that the supertitles was a key element in their enjoyment of the often difficult to follow *p'ansori* narrative, as it made it possible for even non-Korean speakers to follow the drama more closely.

CONTRARY EQUILIBRIUMS: THE 12TH ANNUAL AAAC EXHIBITION

October 4-November 22 • New York, NY

The exhibition was presented by the Asian American Arts Centre (AAAC) in collaboration with The Korea Society. Although the works included in the exhibition revealed distinctive visions and approaches, they also explored issues in the

world of contemporary art today, especially the concerns of artists of Asian descent working and living in the U.S. Most artists used paper as their medium, whether pencil or ink drawings, photographic prints, or installations. Other recurring themes reflected in the works were modes of abstraction, the primacy of the artistic process, the use of found materials, and the artist as subject. During the exhibition, on October 18, the artists also showed slides of their work and answered questions during a panel discussion at The Korea Society, moderated by Robert Lee, director of the Asian American Art Centre.

Yoojin Chung performed a lengthy excerpt from *The Tale of Hungbo*, a classic allegory about two brothers, one wicked and one virtuous. The program also included a rendition of *Undampungkyung*, a short lyric song in classical Chinese. The performance was held in the museum's Kaufman Theater as part of its Global Weekend Series. Chung who is an internationally renowned scholar of the *p'ansori* genre, led an informative and highly animated Q&A session following the performance. In a first for Chung and the Kaufman Theater, the performance featured the use of English

Phuong M. Do, Hanoi, Vietnam (2000), c-print, 5"X7"



ASIAN AMERICAN ARTS PERFORMANCE: FEATURING DENIZEN KANG AND THE MANGO TRIBE

November 2 • New York, NY

The Korea Society joined the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia, the Columbia Asian American Alliance, The Student Initiated Event Fund at the Barnard Center for Research on Women, and the Columbia Korean Students Association as cosponsors of this event held at Columbia University. The performance brought together about 180 attendees of the Asian & Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference as well as students and members of the New York City community for an evening of creative reflection. To start off the program, NYC artist Taiyo Takeda Ebato hosted an open microphone to provide space for the attendees to share their art. For the second portion, several artists from the Mango Tribe Collective performed parts of their newest theatrical performance, *Sisters*



David Huang and Dennis Kim, aka Denizen Kang

in the Smoke. Next was Dennis Kim, a.k.a. Denizen Kang, a member of the spoken word poetry powerhouse I

Was Born With Two Tongues and part of the underground hip-hop group Typical Cats based out of Chicago.



DYNAMIC KOREA: PHOTO EXHIBITION OF THE 2002 WORLD CUP

November 20-29 • New York, NY

The Korea Society joined with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York and Woori Bank to present an exhibition of photos from the 2002 World Cup entitled *Dynamic Korea: Sea of Red*. A reception marking the opening of the exhibition was held at Woori Bank. H.E. Wonil Cho, consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York, Jae-Seung Yoo, chairman of Woori Bank, and Frederick F. Carriere, vice president and executive director of The Korea Society, gave remarks.