



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Korean Artists Showcased in Crossings Exhibitions

The Honolulu Academy of Arts will participate in the city-wide presentation of *Crossings 2003: Korea/Hawaii*, an international arts event commemorating the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, in September. The Academy's exhibitions will focus on contemporary Korean artists working in a variety of media, including fiber, ceramics, metal, clay, paper and lacquer.

The Academy is one of the three primary participants in the event. The Contemporary Museum and the University of Hawaii Art Gallery are the other major venues. Many other Hawaii museum and exhibition venues including Honolulu Hale, East-West Center Gallery, Iolani Gallery at Windward Community College, Koa Gallery at Kapiolani Community College and Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center on Maui, will be participating in the event.

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Crossings 2003: Korea/Hawaii at the Academy will be on view September 18 through November 9 in the Henry R. Luce Gallery. This exhibition includes more than 50 works by contemporary Korean craft artists. The roster of artists features senior artists celebrated in their own fields, as well as mid-career artists gaining reputations beyond Korea. Among the artists whose work will be on display include the following:

Oh Soon-Hee: A fiber artist, Oh Soon-Hee's basketry works range from subtle variation of weaving motives to a synthesis of traditional images and contemporary experiences. She is a professor and dean of the College of the Arts at Duksun Women's University. A 1968 graduate of the Applied Arts Department of Ewha Women's University, she studied at the University of Indiana and the Paris Ecole Nationale Supérieur des Arts Decoratifs in France. Known for her creative use of untraditional materials—brass wire, monofilament, and electronic parts, among many others—and diverse expression in basketry, Oh Soon-Hee is one of the leading influences for serious development of fiber arts in Korea.

Kim Yik-yung: Born in 1955, ceramic artist Kim Yik-yung received her master of fine arts in ceramics at Alfred University. She also studied for a year at the Craft Department of Hong-Ik University in Seoul, Korea, and received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Seoul National University. Her work in porcelain has received recognition internationally and has been presented in a series of solo and group exhibitions in Korea, Japan, Germany, and the United States. She is currently a professor at Kookmin University in Seoul.

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Ha Won: Ha Won received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in painting from Seoul National University. She also has a masters degree in printmaking from Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Ha has participated in many group and solo exhibitions in Korea and the United States presenting delicate cast-paper representations of leaves, bark, and tree trunks, with which she suggests the life and shapes of forests and foliage, their growth and deterioration, and the passing of time.

Song Burn-Soo: Creating tapestries has been an important part of Song Burn-Soo's life. His tapestries are elaborate and labor-intensive, and his recent works are haunting considerations of the Biblical crown of thorns. Song Burn-Soo attended Hong-Ik University where he graduated with both bachelor and masters degrees of fine arts. He also studied at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in France. A professor at the College of Fine Art at Hong-Ik University, Song Burn-Soo's work has been presented in many solo exhibitions and is also in many private and museum collections. He has also published three books on fabric art.

Lee Chunghie: A practicing artist and designer for over 20 years, Lee Chunghie's recent work uses the traditional *Chogakpo* patchwork of the Korean wrapping cloths known as *pojagi*. Appropriating old photographs of the anonymous women and young girls who made up the Korean textile labor force and screen-printing them on patchwork *pojagi* and garments, Lee celebrates the achievements of these legions of artisans who heretofore have gone unrecognized.

She received her B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees from Hong-Ik University and was a Fullbright Exchange Scholar to the Rhode Island School of Design where she has since taught twice as a visiting artist. She became interested in working with *Chogakpo* while researching a lecture presentation she was invited to give on the subject of this Korean folk art. Lee's works are in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Portland Art Museum, Oregon, as well as other American and Korean museums.

Kim Seol: Kim Seol majored in wooden lacquercraft in the Department of Craft at Sookmyung Women's University and in the graduate school of the same university, where she currently teaches. Although relying on the traditional processes of lacquer production and the incorporation of traditional materials—mother of pearl, eggshell, and gold foil—to create elegant patterns on her works, Kim distinguishes her works with shapes and surface decoration that transcend functionality and reach a new modern expression.

The Academy will also present an exhibition of metalwork by Korean artist Komelia Hongja Okim. ***Reflections of Two Worlds: A Korean American Heritage—Metalwork by Komelia Hongja Okim*** will remain on view September 18 through November 16; Graphic Arts Gallery:

Born in Korea, Okim was raised in Hawaii and studied at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Ewha Women's University in Seoul. She also received a master of fine arts degree from Indiana University in Bloomington. Okim has achieved international recognition for her innovative work in silver and other metals as well as the metal program that she runs at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. This exhibition will feature recent silver hollowware forms, many worked in the *Kum-Boo* (Korean gold-foil overlay) technique. Also on display will be silver and mixed-metal sculpture.

Tom Klobe, Director of the University of Hawaii Art Gallery, is the overall project director for the city-wide *Crossings* project together with Kim Heh-Kyong, former curator at The Korean Culture and Arts Foundation in Seoul. Jennifer Saville, Academy Curator of Western Art, is coordinating the Academy's presentations. A bilingual catalogue documenting the exhibitions of each participating institution will accompany the event. The international arts event commemorates the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States.

In other related programming, the Academy will also present *Wrappings of Happiness* September 3 through December 7, 2003 in the Asian Temporary Exhibition Gallery. This exhibition of approximately 60 Korean textiles comes from the Museum of Korean Embroidery in Seoul. The textiles are wrapping cloths known as *pojagi*.

The cloths vary in sizes and materials and were used by royalty and everyday people to wrap gifts and cover food and belongings. They are the product of women who have woven and stitched together gifts of history and tradition and are said to be made as “wrappings of happiness.”

For more information about the Academy’s *Crossings 2003, Reflections of Two Worlds*, or *Wrappings of Happiness* exhibitions, call (808) 532-8700. For more information about the city-wide efforts and programs at other venues, contact Anne Smoke at (808) 734-5858 or Tom Klobe at (808) 956-6888.

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General Information: Location: The Academy is located at 900 S. Beretania Street in the Thomas Square Historic District, only 10 minutes from Waikiki and the downtown Honolulu business district. **Hours:** Tues. through Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.; Closed Monday. Guided tours offered are Tues. through Sat. at 11 a.m.; Sun. at 1:15 p.m. The Pavilion Café serves lunch Tues. through Sat. from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Academy Shop is open during normal Museum hours. **Admission:** \$7 - General admission; \$4 for seniors (62+), students (13 and over), and military; Members and children 12 and under are free. Admission is free to The Academy Shop, The Pavilion Café, and the Academy Art Center. Complimentary admission is offered to the public on the first Wednesday of the month. **Phone Numbers:** General Info: 532-8700; Recorded info: Exhibitions - 532-8701; Theater Events - 532-8768. **Web Site:** www.honoluluacademy.org **Shangri La Tours:** For ticketing information for Doris Duke’s estate, Shangri La, call toll free 1-866-385-3849.