

**THE KOREA INSTITUTE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
THIRTEEN NEW INK PAINTINGS
BY CONTEMPORARY KOREAN ARTIST PARK DAE SUNG**

***Park Dae Sung: Ink and Soul* is on view from September 19, 2022,
through December 8, 2022.**



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The Korea Institute at Harvard University presents *Park Dae Sung: Ink and Soul*, an exhibition consisting of thirteen new and original ink paintings by contemporary Korean artist Park Dae Sung (b. 1945). This exhibition is curated by Sunglim Kim, Associate Professor of Art History at Dartmouth College, and organized by Sun Joo Kim, Harvard-Yenching Professor of Korean History at Harvard University. These works, all of which were exclusively produced for Harvard and completed in 2022, will be showcased to the public for the first time. The exhibition highlights Park's expressive and innovative brushwork, featuring traditional Korean landscapes, including mountains, snowscapes, waterfalls, and pavilions.

Notably, Park portrays Kūmgang-san (Geumgang-san or "Diamond Mountains" in present-day North Korea), a magnificent mountain range known for its scenic beauty; certain sites in Kyōngju (Gyeongju), the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom (57 BCE–935 CE) in southeastern Korea; scenic places on Cheju (Jeju) Island, and others. Park reinterprets traditional East Asian ink painting with a modern style while exploring issues of nature, identity, and homeland.

"The opportunity to display Park Dae Sung's stunning ink paintings at Harvard is especially momentous, because the exhibition will coincide with celebrations for the Korea Institute's 40th Anniversary," shared Nicholas Harkness, Modern Korean Economy and Society Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the Korea Institute. "We are deeply grateful to the artist for creating new works especially for display at Harvard."

As a primarily self-taught artist, Park Dae Sung picked up the brush at an early age and turned to painting and calligraphy as sources of solace from the adversities in his life. Born in Ch'ongdo (Cheongdo) in southeastern Korea, Park lost his parents during the ideological turmoil of post-liberation Korea and suffered the loss of his left arm. Despite these hardships, Park believes that a state of discomfort stimulates his mind and pushes him to perfect the art of ink painting. Through a mixture of learning from Old Masters and painting directly from observation, Park seeks to capture the vitality of the natural world with his brush. With an earnest dedication to his craft, Park is now well-regarded for his contributions to modernizing Korean ink painting.



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"In the exploration of what constructs Park's version of modernity," said exhibition curator Sunglim Kim, "viewers will come to appreciate his unique take on the world, his ability to overcome adversity, and the beauty in traditional ink painting methods. Indeed, it is not just his technical mastery, but the diversity of his abilities that makes Park's work truly magnificent."

Inspired by the outside world, Park's paintings possess a meditative quality that invites viewers to reflect on nature's power. Minimizing human presence, they allow one to focus on the organic rhythms and energetic flows of the landscapes depicted. Park, leading a hermit's lifestyle, rejects modern conveniences to this day in order to fully immerse himself in his work. From the astonishing vastness of mountains to the individual leaves of trees, Park demonstrates a sensitivity to the perception of both large and small details and employs unusual perspectives, such as the aerial view in *Heaven, Earth, and Human*. His hyperrealistic interpretations expand the uses of line through varied thickness, darkness, and texture. Rather than an austere portrayal, Park creates dynamic, vibrant images.

Park Dae Sung: Ink and Soul is on view at the Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS) South Building. This exhibition is part of a larger project that brings Park's work to the United States, and it is only the third time that the artist will have a U.S. solo show. This exhibit is made possible with the generous support of Gana Foundation for Arts and Culture and the Jeffrey D. and Jean K. Lee Korea Institute Fund.

The Korea Institute will host an artist talk and symposium at CGIS South on Friday, October 28, at 1:00 pm. The program includes a keynote and Q&A session with Park Dae Sung, followed by two panels of several distinguished scholars and curators. This event is open to the public.

Travel Dates and Venues

The Korea Institute presents *Park Dae Sung: Ink and Soul* (Sept. 19 to Dec. 8, 2022) in conjunction with three other institutions that will present related exhibitions: the Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, *Park Dae Sung: Ink Reimagined* (Sept. 24 to Mar. 19, 2023); the Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University, *Park Dae Sung: Ink Reimagined* (Sept. 14 to Dec. 10, 2023); and the University of Mary Washington, *Park Dae Sung: Ink Reimagined* (Oct. 26 to Dec. 10, 2023).

- Press release text by Suna Cha, RSEA '23

About the Korea Institute

The Korea Institute was established in 1981 under the aegis of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, and in 1993 it became an autonomous institution directly responsible to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. It is the only organization devoted solely to the support and development of Korean Studies at Harvard.

The late Professor Edward W. Wagner was the Institute's first director and guided the Institute in its early years. It was during Professor Wagner's tenure that the Korea Colloquium was inaugurated and the first summer travel grants for students were awarded. Since 1993 the Institute experienced a major expansion under the directorship of Professor Carter J. Eckert. During the eleven years



under Professor Eckert's leadership, many new programs were put into place, including additional student grants and fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, and graduate student support. In Academic Year 1996–97, Dr. Vincent S. R. ("Vin") Brandt served as interim director. Professor Eckert also served as interim director in Spring 2008, Fall 2009, Academic Year 2014–15, and Academic Year 2018–19. In 2004, Professor David McCann, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature, became the third director of the Institute, expanding programmatic activities on campus and in Korea, particularly in the areas of undergraduate and graduate student support. In 2011, Professor Sun Joo Kim, Harvard-Yenching Professor of Korean History, began a decade of stability and growth as the Institute's fourth director from its 30th Anniversary Year. In 2021, Professor Nicholas Harkness became the Institute's fifth director, leading the Institute from its 40th Anniversary into a new decade of exciting global expansion in Korean Studies at Harvard and beyond.

The Korea Institute is an integral and dynamic part of the intellectual life at Harvard. In addition to the Korea Colloquium, the Institute also supports numerous lectures, workshops, and conferences throughout the year, led by Institute faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows. The Institute has a number of visiting scholars, fellows, and associates through an affiliated scholars program. Other activities include faculty research projects, undergraduate and graduate student support, teaching, study and work in Korea programs, Korean film screenings, and some cultural events. The Institute has also established a wide-ranging network of collaborative relationships with other centers and departments throughout the University and with colleagues and institutions throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

In celebration of its 40th year, the Korea Institute is highlighting three programmatic themes (diaspora, governance, culture) which have long informed scholarship on Korea and continue to motivate exciting and urgent questions of Korea's fundamentally global nature.