

PRESS RELEASE

SU:MBISORI

Inaugural Exhibition for Jeju Museum of Art
26 June 2009 – 30 September 2009

Press Opening: Thursday, 25 June, 2009 11am-6pm
Preview: Thursday, 25 June, 2009 4pm-6pm

Grand Opening: Friday, 26 June, 10 am -11am

<http://jmoa.jeju.go.kr>



Participant Artists:

Lulwah Al-Homoud (Saudi Arabia), Ahn Byeongseok (Korea), Baik Gwangik(Korea), Bu Jihyeon (Korea), Cha Kiyoul (Korea), Choe U ram (Korea), Chun Sungmyung (Korea), Oleg Dou (Russia), Hakima El Djoudi (France) Bernd Halbherr (Germany), Han Kichang (Korea), Hung Tung-lu (Taiwan), Theo Jansen (Netherlands), Jun Gayoung (Korea), Kang Yobae (Korea), Kim Byougho (Korea), Kim Juyon (Korea), Kim Kichul (Korea), Kim Soonim (Korea), Ko Young hoon; (Korea), Koh Sankeum (Korea), Wolfgang Laib (Germany), Lee Beikyoung (Korea), Lee Jae-hyo (Korea), Lee Minho (Korea), Lee Sungeun (Korea), lillil (Korea), Moon Chang bae (Korea), Onishi Yasuaki (Japan), Seo Sungbong (Korea), Yinka Shonibare MBE (UK), Song Dong (China), Matthew Stone (UK), James Turrell (USA), Bill Viola (USA), Tom Wilkinson (UK)

Director: Dr. Young-ho Kim

Curators: JW Stella/ Rachel Jinsub Kim

Jeju Museum of Art is pleased to announce SU:MBISORI – the Inaugural International Contemporary Art Exhibition for Jeju Museum of Art, which will feature a collective of 36 international contemporary artists from 11 countries that encompass Europe, Middle East, Asia and the USA.

The exhibition will provide a unique environment to create new forms of work by the artists at the forefront of contemporary art, on a scale never experienced in Jeju Island. Both regional and international audiences will have the opportunity to discover exceptional works by leading contemporary artists, but also equally inspirational young emerging artists, who will explore the convergence of the authentic cultural code of Jeju Island, demonstrated in contemporary scenarios.

Like a pearl in the deep blue, Jeju island is one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific Rim, and is blessed with the perfect natural combination - water, light, and the pacific winds - that have become a corner stone for its social infrastructure.

Recently, Jeju shifted its focus and transformed itself into a centre to promote art and culture. With significant funding, the new Museum of Art is the first of these ambitious cultural projects to be realized, which will play a crucial role as a cultural centre both in the region, and on an international level.

The Jeju Museum of Art, which will also celebrate Jeju Island's third year anniversary as a 'Special Self-Governing Province', will be marked by a series of four inaugural projects; 'SU:MBISORI', 'Jeju Art: Yesterday and Today', 'World Children's Eco Art Festival', and 'Artist Being like the Sea: Chang, Lee Suok', under the encompassing title of 'Eye of the Pacific Rim'. Each artist is equally inspirational, allowing audiences to experience regional and non-regional

cultures through their work.

True globalization does not correspond to a uniform ‘*McDonalozation*’ but recognizes the individual character of each regional culture. This exhibition is a reflection of *alter-globalization*, acknowledging a variety of regional authenticities, communicated via the form of contemporary art.

SU:MBISORI is a dialect of Jeju Island, which describes the sound of exhaling by Jeju female divers, called [*haenyeo*]. These women would dive deep underwater with no modern equipment, and were an important part of the cultural life of the island, a cultural symbol of the province. This cathartic exhaling of the *haenyeo*, is simultaneously linking the islands gifted environmental resources - water, light and wind and forming a metaphor of our daily lives in contemporary society.

‘Wind, Water, Light and Sound’/ ‘Breathing Spaces’

SU:MBISORI is largely divided into two parts: Nature and Humans. The first section ‘**Wind, Water, Light and Sound**’ deals with nature and energy of life. The second section ‘**Breathing Spaces**’ regards breathing, circulation, coexistence, relationship, life and death, and is focusing on a wider concept of humans and their lives.

‘**Wind, Water, Light and Sound**’ will look at water, light, wind and sound, which are elements increasingly gaining important profile in both a regional and global scope, to find out which material or topic each of these elements signifies to international contemporary artists, including how they are accepted and interpreted by them.

‘**Breathing Spaces**’ corresponds to the symbolic meaning of su:mbisori or breathing that is the primary function of human body and can be associated with the meaning of “being alive” or in other words with the reason for human existence. In these “spaces” we can encounter the works by artists who breathe in and out every day, endlessly questioning a life, which is full of diversity, brings joy and happiness to some, profound sorrow to others.

This exhibition is hosted by Jeju Special Self-governing Province and organised by Jeju Museum of Art.

Note to Editors

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- There will be a media launch and a preview at Jeju Museum of Art on 25th June from 11am and 6pm.
 - The inaugural exhibitions are hosted by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and organised by Jeju Museum of Art.
 - SU:MBISORI is organised by the inaugural exhibition team for Jeju Museum of Art and co-curated by JW Stella and Jinsub Rachel Kim under the supervision of Dr. Young-ho Kim, director of inaugural exhibitions for Jeju Museum of Art.
 - SU:MBISORI is sponsored by Korean Air with kind support by National Museum of Contemporary Art (Korea), Oroom Gallery (Seoul), Gana Art Gallery (Seoul) MUSEUM.People (Seoul), Kukje Gallery (Seoul), Stephen Friedman Gallery (London), Union Gallery (London), Kinetica Museum Ltd. (London), Aidan Gallery (Moscow), interalia Art Company (Seoul), Beijing Commune (Beijing)
 - All the artists are highly established or up and coming emerging artists who are spotlighted by the international art scene.
 - The curatorial team and artists will be available for interview by appointment, subject to availability.
 - The official website of JMoA will be online as of 20th June, 2009.

For further information about the exhibition, please contact JW Stella at jw@jwstella.com /+82 (0)10 2728 5665