

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE
Opening of the Obang exhibition – The Harmony of Colours (in collaboration with the maison de la culture Frontenac)
Exhibition of work by Jinyoung Kim, Heeseung Ko, and Jihee Min
Friday May 2nd

From May 1st to June 7th
5 pm to 7 pm

maison de la culture
Frontenac
2550, Ontario street east
(Frontenac subway station)

Free



© Jihee Min



Festival Accès Asie
May 1st to 18th 2014
19th edition
www.accesasie.com

Montreal, March 3rd 2014 - **maison de la culture Frontenac** and **Festival Accès Asie** are proud to invite you to the opening of **Obang – the harmony of colours** on **Friday May 2nd at 5 pm**, to discover the work of three talented Korean Canadian artists. Drawing inspiration from *O-Bang-Saek*, a traditional Korean symbol about colours, Jinyoung Kim, Heeseung Ko, and Jihee Min offer a very personal interpretation of this traditional symbol by using different mediums. On the opening night, Jihee Min will present an interactive performance during which she will invite the audience to create a piece with her that will express an interpretation of colour as social identity and a metaphor for the struggles of visible minorities in the West.

In Korean, *O-Bang-Saek* means ‘the five directional colours’. So red, blue, white, black and yellow respectively represent south, east, west, north and center. Ancient Koreans also associated very specific meanings to each of these colours, red representing creation and passion, blue representing birth and life and white purity and truth. Black is a symbol for wisdom and knowledge and yellow, also called gold, evokes prosperity.

Drawing from the original idea of *O-Bang-Saek*, the three Korean Canadian artists go beyond this concept by re-appropriating it to give it new meanings. **Jihee Min** proposes *The Circle*, an interactive installation on the theme of multiculturalism that will evolve throughout the duration of the exhibition. Visitors will be invited to add nails to the work to gradually form a harmonious circle. These nails will have been painted with colours evoking the different skin tones of different populations. **Jinyoung Kim** will present a video installation and photographic series that resonates with the idea of the processes of mourning and rejuvenation. **Heeseung Ko** will present *The wind of five colours*, reviving in her own way the five directional colours. Attempting to communicate her interpretation in an unbiased manner, Ko depicts in her work various principles that can be observed in nature and in the daily lives of Koreans.

Although their cultural background is steeped in Korean traditions, their Canadian experience has influenced their vision of colour in visual arts. This exhibition is thus also a reflection on colour in contemporary Canadian art.

A venue rich in discoveries for all artistic disciplines, the maison de la culture Frontenac presents more than 150 events annually: shows, concerts, screenings and exhibitions, while always making sure to create a warm and welcoming space. The large majority of its activities, plays, concerts, dance shows, film screening and variety shows are free of charge.

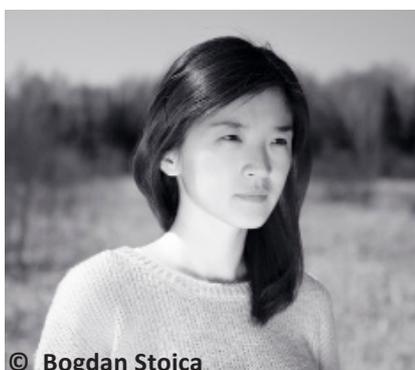




© Heesseung Ko

Heesseung Ko, visual artist

Heesseung Ko was born and raised in South Korea. After having been active in the fields of creation and education of visual arts and cinema in South Korea, she moved to Canada where she completed a second Masters of Fine Arts in Montreal. Ko is highly involved in the field of visual arts in Montreal and in Toronto, participating in several solo and group exhibitions. She sees herself as a full-fledged Asian Canadian, drawing inspiration from her Asian roots to create.



© Bogdan Stoica

Jinyoung Kim, visual artist

Jinyoung Kim holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Art and Design and is currently completing a Masters of Fine Arts at Concordia University. Her artistic practice is closely linked to her South Korean origins. Through the use of video and photography, Kim imbues new meaning into gestures that are close to the everyday. Her work can be seen in several exhibitions, mainly in Montreal.



© Jinyoung Kim

Jihee Min, visual artist

Jihee Min holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Concordia University and a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Art and Design. Min left South Korea when she was 12 to come to Canada with her family. To express her strong desire to integrate into Canadian society, she draws inspiration from her uprooting and from multiculturalism to create work in which the boundary between artist and audience is lifted. With sculpture and installation, she participates in several solo, duo and group exhibitions all across Canada. Artist would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.



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