

Special Communication

Congratulations on your publication of the very first issue of the '*Journal of Korean and Asian Arts*' published by the Korean National Research Center for the Arts.

On behalf of all the members of the Korea National University of Arts - where we have shared 30 years of history with the Korean National Research Center for the Arts (KRECA) - I would like to extend my congratulations on this momentous and inaugural publication of a new international journal.

Since its establishment in 1992, the Korea National University of Arts (K-Arts) has followed its slogan 'Thinking That Goes Deeper' and continued to train and develop the skills of top-notch artists, researchers, and educators through 26 departments spread through their six schools. Those being; music, drama, film, TV & multimedia, dance, visual arts, and Korean traditional arts. Now, graduates who are active in various fields have become the foundation of Korean art and have crossed boundaries of nations and fields, creating new genres and future classics. In 2020, K-Arts ranked 38th in the QS World University Rankings for Performing Arts, and proved its academic and artistic value as a top-class art college in both Korea and beyond.

We have seen the future can be spectacularly unpredictable. We are now facing new and unexpected challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic as in-person interactions and physical contact have become extremely limited. We still have to continue our daily lives, however, and these unforeseen conditions ironically lead us to rediscover the value of arts as a channel of conveying messages of hope, encouragement, empathy, and communication. Society needs art to present a vision of the future and this is also the very mission of artists, art researchers, and educators. Thus, the publication of our international journal of arts - which takes an interdisciplinary approach and crosses academic boundaries - is both timely and necessary. As we know, whatever the future does have in store, the arts will always be a driving force of culture.

My wish now is for the academic and practical scope of art to expand through (and because of) the *Journal of Korean and Asian Art*. I expect the journal to promote a diverse range of conversations among our most valued and loved disciplines. the first international journal solely focuses on art studies of Korea and Asia, I also hope for the journal to become a forum for (and a fulcrum of) new ideas and discussions, allowing scholars around the world to share knowledge, link into the on-going dialogue, and learn from one another. And on that note all that is left for me to say is that I sincerely wish for great and continued success for regarding the future of the *Journal of Korean and Asian Arts* and I look forward to any contribution the journal will offer toward research, within both Korea and, Asia.

Yours Faithfully,

Kim Bongryol

President of the Korea National University of Arts