

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

Chuseok

KOREAN HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday 22 September 2007 12.00–17.00

All events are FREE

Come to the British Museum to join in the celebration of Chuseok, Korea's Harvest Festival, with performances, workshops and films

In collaboration with The Korean Cultural Centre. Supported by the Korean Embassy, the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and The Korea Foundation.



Welcome to the Chuseok celebrations at the British Museum

Chuseok is Korea's harvest festival, celebrated for over 2,000 years. Families get together to visit ancestral graves and to hold a memorial service to thank ancestors for a plentiful harvest. They then share food such as *Song-pyen*, a crescent-shaped rice cake, and play folk games such as *Gang-gang-sulle*.

OPENING

Ceremony of Jangseung (Village guardian) and Make A Wish

12.00–13.00 • Forecourt

Most villages in Korea had guardians to protect against evil spirits and at certain times such as Chuseok they would make offerings to ask for a rich harvest. Join us to make your wishes.

FILMS

Chihwaseon (Drunk on Women and Poetry)

12.30 • Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Im Kwon-Taek's (Best Director, Cannes' Film Festival) 95th film tells the story of renowned 19th-century painter Jang Seung-Up (Choi Min-Sik), an artist whose revolutionary work and persona have had a great influence on Korean art. Director: Im Kwon-Taek
Certificate: 15, South Korea, 2002, 117 minutes, subtitled
Distributed by Pathé

Dae-jang-geum (Jewel in the Palace, 大長今)

15.00 • BP Lecture Theatre

A rare opportunity to see highlights from the famous Korean historical drama TV series, *Dae-jang-geum (Jewel in the Palace)*. The story focuses on the first female royal physician of the Joseon dynasty and the portrayal of traditional Korean culture, including royal court cuisine and medicine. Certificate: PG, South Korea, 2003, 90 minutes, subtitled
Supported by Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC)

PERFORMANCES

Pungmul by Dulsori

12.30–12.50 • Forecourt

Traditional folk music including drumming, dancing, and singing. Costumed performers play *kwaeng-gwari* (small handheld gong), *janggo* (hourglass drum), *buk* (barrel drum), and *jing* (gong) as well as the *sangmo* hat that spins and flips in intricate patterns.

Experimental contemporary performance of the moon jar by KoPAS

13.00–13.20 • From Forecourt to Korean Gallery (Room 67)

Kim Baek-Ki and three experimental contemporary performers from KoPAS (Korea Performance Art Spirit) explore the wondrous process of moon jar making and its relationship to nature.

Traditional chamber music and chanting

13.30–14.00 • Korean Gallery (Room 67)

Enjoy traditional Korean chamber ensemble with *daegeum* (large transverse flute), *gayageum* (12-stringed zither) and *janggo* (hourglass drum) in the *sarangbang* (scholar's study) in the Korean Gallery.

Binari by Dulsori and KoPAS

14.30–15.50 • West lawn

Fresh from successful performances at WOMAD and the Edinburgh Festival, Dulsori presents dynamic rhythms of percussion and drums together with rousing vocals in collaboration with performance group KoPAS.

Folk dance: Gang-gang-sulle and Dan-shim-jul-nori

16.00–17.00 • West lawn

Take part in a traditional Chuseok circle dance, *Gang-gang-sulle*, and a ceremonial folk dance, *Dan-shim-jul-nori*, and plait colourful streamers around a maypole.

THE KOREAN MOON JAR

Until 21 October • Room 3

This display focuses on the Moon Jar, a rare voluminous white porcelain jar made in early 18th-century Korea. It is one of only 20 remaining in the world and is a stunning example of the simple beauty of Korean porcelain. In 1935 it was brought back from Korea by the father of British studio pottery, Bernard Leach, and it has been a great influence on modern artists in both East and West. The British Museum acquired the jar in 1999 and it has since become one of the Museum's iconic objects. Until 21 October, a soap sculpture of the Moon Jar by artist Shin Mee-Kyung will be on display in its place in the Korean Gallery, Room 67.

Admission FREE

VISIT THE BRITISH MUSEUM'S KOREAN COLLECTION

Discover objects from prehistory to present in the Korea Foundation Gallery, Room 67. Pick up a free map from the Information Desk.

Find out more about Korea and other British Museum events and exhibitions at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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Artist Shin Yong-Gu from KoPAS at the Korean National Theatre, 2006 © Dulsori

