

 <b>한국문화원</b> Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		<h1>Press Release</h1>	다시, 대한민국! 새로운 국민의 나라
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**Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Korean National Liberation:  
 Special Exhibition by  
 the National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea**

			
<b>Whanki Kim</b> [1913-1974]	<b>Kyungja Chun</b> [1924-2015]	<b>Se-ok Suh</b> [1929-2020]	<b>Taijung Um</b> [b.1938]

- ▶ **Event:** Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Korean National Liberation: Special Exhibition by the National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea
- ▶ **Date:** April 10(Thursday) – May 15(Thursday), 2025
- ▶ **Opening Reception:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 / 6:30PM-9:00PM
- ▶ **Location:** Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles Art Gallery (2nd Floor)  
5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036
- ▶ **Exhibition Presenters:** Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA),  
National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea (NAA)
- ▶ **For more info:** Tammy Cho, (323) 936-3014 or tammy@kccla.org  
\* **Gallery Open Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm**

The **Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA, Director Sangwon Jung)**, in collaboration with the **National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea (NAA, President Soojung Shin)**, proudly presents a *special exhibition marking the 80th Anniversary of Korean National Liberation*. The exhibition will take place from **April 10<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025** at the Korean Cultural Center’s Art Gallery at 5505 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Founded in 1954, the **National Academy of Arts, Republic of Korea** has been the nation’s premier institution for cultural and artistic advancement. Following the enactment of the *Cultural Protection Act* in 1988, the Academy has continuously supported the creative and scholarly endeavors of Korea’s most accomplished artists across various fields, including literature, fine art, music, theater, film, and dance.

Since 2017, the Academy has been holding international exhibitions of its members’ works to introduce the roots of contemporary Korean art to the world. This LA exhibition presents a rare opportunity to view the artistic legacy of Korea’s master artists alongside the works of current Academy members.

The exhibition features **17 esteemed members** from the Academy’s visual arts division, including Jongsang Lee, Sukchang Hong, and Cheoljoo Lee (Korean painting); Myeungro Youn, Heeyoung Yoo, Kwangjin Park, Souckchin Kim, Sanghwa Chung, and Hyungdae Kim (Western painting); Loijin Jeun, Jongtae Choi, Taijung Um, and Euisoon Choi (sculpture); Shinja Lee (textile); Chankyun Kang (metalwork); Junghyun Cho (ceramics); and Seungjoong Yoon (architecture). These artists, each a master in their field, continue to shape the direction of Korean contemporary art through their creative pursuits. The exhibition will also include works by the late members Kyungja Chun and Se-ok Suh

(Korean painting), and Whanki Kim (Western painting), offering visitors a comprehensive look at both the past and present of Korean modern art.

Soojung Shin, President of the NAA, stated, *“This marks the first time that works by Korea’s most distinguished senior artists will be presented in Los Angeles. I hope this exhibition allows local art enthusiasts and the Korean-American community to fully experience the passion and artistic vision of these masters, who have upheld the traditions of Korean art while forging their own creative paths.”*

Director Sangwon Jung commented, *“We hope this special exhibition will serve as a meaningful opportunity to share the beauty and significance of Korean art with the Southern California community while fostering cultural exchange through art. As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation, this exhibition invites us to reflect on the identity and future of Korean art.”*

The opening ceremony will take place on **Thursday, April 10th at 6:30 PM** at the KCCLA’s 2nd Floor Art Gallery. The event will be attended by Soojung Shin, President of the NAA, as well as Euisoon Choi, Chairperson of Fine Art Division, and Taijung Um, a distinguished member of the Fine Art Division.

The exhibition is open to the public and runs until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. /End/