

Case Study: International Engagement

Spirit of jang-in: treasures of Korean metal craft

Powerhouse Museum



Celebrating 50 years of bilateral relations

In October the Powerhouse Museum will stage an exhibition of Korean metal craft in order to mark 2011 as the Year of Friendship between Australia and the Republic of Korea and to celebrate 50 years of bilateral relations between the countries. *Spirit of jang-in: treasures of Korean metal craft* spans Korean national treasures from the Bronze age through to contemporary pieces made by practising artists in Korea and Australia. The exhibition aims to convey to Australians and numerous visitors to the country a Korean spirit of “jang-in,” or utmost craftsmanship.

The exhibition will use a wide range of display techniques, including mood graphics and sound, and will be organized into different sections, covering the metal crafts from the Bronze Age; Buddhism influences in Goryeo Kingdom (918-1392)’s culture; and everyday life of the Joseon Kingdom (1392-1910). Also, the exhibition will show thorough contemporary artworks how Korea overcame the devastation of the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953).

The exhibition reflects growing interest among Australians in learning more about their fourth largest trading partner. Korean culture is less well known to the Australian public than cultures of Asian neighbouring economies like China or Japan. The museum is expecting the four-month exhibition to attract more than 400,000 visitors. Organizers are hoping that design students and those involved in Korean studies will find the exhibition useful in advancing their knowledge on Korean culture and tradition.

The Korean consul-general invited the museum to host an exhibition to celebrate the 50 years of friendship between Australia and Korea This exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, National Museum of Korea, POSCO, Korea Foundation and the Korea Tourism Organisation.

To reciprocate Australia’s efforts to introduce Korean culture, the National Museum of Korea will hold an exhibition on Australia’s aboriginal culture in 2013, said Lee Hyung-ho, director-general at the culture ministry

See: <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/exhibitions/coming.php>