

Chilly season and Art 3. Chilly season and Art

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With the summer heat, comes the season for drying hot chilly peppers. Almost every sidewalk in Jung-gu was covered in a large net or a piece of cloth with fresh hot peppers on top of it, sitting in the sun for days, until they turn brown and brittle. Restaurants and houses dry them to make the chilly powder and chilly past, both are necessary ingredients for making spicy soup, kimchi and other pickled vegetables.

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Jung-gu, Incheon

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Before my trip to Incheon, I had to run back and forth between Incheon and Seoul to source some materials for my work, during which I had the chance to visit the 'flip Book' exhibition at the Ilmin museum and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Seoul (MMCA) for the Akram Zaatari show and the archival exhibition of 'Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T)' group.

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Source: Akram Zaatari Exhibition, MMCA, Seoul

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Incheon fish market

After my exhibition, I went with my friends on a trip to 'Incheon General Fish Market,' to celebrate my residency and exhibition coming to an end. We first strolled down the market and checked out the different sections the market had to offer: the fresh fish, the dried fish and seaweed and the shredded seafood in chilly sauce sections. Each section is divided into subsections with the shops having their own specialties. We then picked the fish we wanted cleaned and cut and sat inside one of the booths in the market to eat the raw neatly sliced fish. We had made the decision earlier that I was to try the Skate ray fish, the 2nd most pungent fish in the world, as I was told. In my home country we have the Ancient Egyptian tradition of salting grey mullet fish (Feseekh) and fermenting it in the sun, a dish that can cause food poisoning and in some cases death. But still Egyptians insist on eating the very smelly dish, soaked in oil and lemon every year around springtime. The tradition comes as part of our celebration of 'Sham El Nesseem,' which signifies the beginning of the spring season based to the Coptic calendar.

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Incheon General Fish Market, Incheon

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이천 일반물산시장, 인천

Incheon General Fish Market, Incheon

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이천 일반물산시장

A farewell to Jung-gu, Incheon

이천 일반물산시장에 도착하자마자 눈앞에 펼쳐진 어시장의 풍경은 정말 장관이었다. 수많은 종류의 생선이 얼음 위나 상자 안에 정돈되어 전시되어 있다. 가격표는 한글로 적혀 있어 소비자들이 쉽게 알아볼 수 있다. 생선들이 싱싱하고 신선해 보이는 모습이 정말 매력적이다. 특히, 활어를 많이 판매하는 모습을 보니 신선도를 의심할 여지가 없었다. 이천 일반물산시장의 어시장 분위기는 정말 활기차고 생동감이 넘친다. 어시장에서 신선한 생선을 구입하는 것은 정말 즐거운 일이다. 특히, 활어를 구입하여 요리하는 것은 맛과 영양을 모두 챙길 수 있는 좋은 방법이다. 이천 일반물산시장의 어시장을 방문하여 신선한 생선을 구입하고 맛있게 요리하는 것을 추천한다.

I had noticed since I arrived to Jung-gu, Incheon the difference in architecture between the Japanese and Chinese areas, which clearly set them apart. However, my friend Ho-young during a walk together, as I was bidding Jung-gu one of many good-byes, showed me a very subtle difference that was to determine which territory belonged to whom during their reigning times.

The stairs leading up to Freedom Park and in between Chinatown and the Japanese street are lined on each side with a different style of lights. The differences are so subtle yet so clear to the trained eye. I had never noticed them until Ho-Yong pointed them out, then they became too clear.



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Source: Jung-gu, Incheon

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A quick visit to Seoul

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On the day of what was expected to be the strongest Typhoon in the last few years in South Korea, I was to take my bags and visit Seoul for a week, and so I did... My visit was very full, and I got to experience Seoul with more depth. I had the chance to visit more galleries, museums, monuments, stores, traditional and contemporary Korean restaurants, cafes; I enjoyed some walks around the city, etc. Among my most memorable experiences was my visit to 'Jogyesa' temple during a large Monk Rally. The Monks were chanting outside the temple while surrounded by an exuberant number of policemen. My understanding was that they were protesting the doings and corruption of some of the elder Monks in the Organization, and asking for reform. Another impressive stop was Paju book city, a cultural complex famous for publishing and editing books and making movies. The architecture of the area was impressive; it looked like a future city with its creative contemporary buildings.



Source: Siren Eun Young Jung Exhibition, Korea Artist Prize nominee, MMCA, Seoul

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안녕하세요

A farewell to Korea

저는 한국에서 정말 짧은 시간을 보냈습니다. 시간이 정말 짧아 보일 수 있지만, 바쁘게 일하고 새로운 곳과 문화를 탐험하려고 할 때 시간은 정말 빨리 지나갑니다. 제 한국에서의 경험, 특히 인천과 중구, 인천은 정말 특별하고 마법 같은 느낌입니다. 저에게는 중구, 인천은 마치 서로 다른 장소에서 서로 다른 시간에 있었던 것 같았고, 정말 따뜻하고 환영하는 곳이었습니다. 저는 한국에 다시 돌아오고 싶다는 생각이 들었고, 만약 제가 다시 한국에 온다면, 중구, 인천은 제가 머무를 곳 중 하나가 될 것입니다.

My stay in Korea had been sweet and short. It may seem like a long time, but when you are busy working and trying to explore a new place and culture, time flies by so quickly. My experience in Korea in general and Jung-gu, Incheon specifically seemed so magical. To me, Jung-gu, Incheon seemed like it belonged to different places at different times, a complex yet very welcoming place. I have a feeling I am to return back to Korea, and when I do, Jung-gu, will be one of my stops for it has been my home for almost 3 months.



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Mimesis Museum, Paju

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