

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 I came to Seoul, 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

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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 Neseem,' which signifies the beginning of the spring season based to the Coptic calendar.



인cheon 일반 수산물 시장, 인천

Incheon General Fish Market, Incheon

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Incheon General Fish Market, Incheon

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A farewell to Jung-gu, Incheon

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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 reining times.

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A quick visit to Seoul

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한국에 온 날부터 서울을 한 주 동안 둘러볼 기회가 있었다. 서울을 한 주 동안 둘러볼 기회가, 서울을 한 주 동안 둘러볼 기회가 있었다.

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.



한국 예술, Korea Artist Prize 수상, MMCA, 서울

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

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A farewell to Korea

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.



모더니즘 박물관, 평택

Mimesis Museum, Paju

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