

 <b>한국문화원</b> Los Angeles	<b>Press Release</b>		Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles 5505 Wilshire Blvd. LA., CA. 90036 Tel (323)936-7141 <a href="http://www.kccla.org">www.kccla.org</a>
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**Korean Cultural Center Los Angel and National Hangeul Museum Present  
an Academic Conference and the Special Exhibition**

***Sounds × Hangeul: Variation of the Korean Alphabet***

*The special exhibition and academic conference are being held to  
commemorate the 620<sup>th</sup> birthday of King Sejong the Great.*

*King Sejong the Great created and promulgated the Korean Alphabet,  
known as Hangeul, helping people read and write easily.*

To celebrate the 620th birthday of King Sejong the Great, the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and National Hangeul Museum host an academic conference called, “*King Sejong’s Invention of Hangeul: In the Perspective of US Scholars*” with academic professionals at UCLA Center for Korean Studies on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. The special exhibition, *Sounds × Hangeul: Variation of the Korean Alphabet* will uncover the phonetic alphabet of Korean character and will be held at the Korean Cultural Center from Wednesday, May 10, 2017 to Friday, June 2, 2017.

King Sejong the Great is the 4th king of the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). He was responsible for some of the most brilliant achievements in the history of Korea, including the creation of Hangeul (Korean alphabet) and made great advancements in the areas of science, culture, art and politics.

## 1. FORUM

- ▶ Title : *King Sejong's Invention of Hangeul: In the Perspective of US Scholars*
- ▶ Date and Time : Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
- ▶ Location : UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library
- ▶ Hosts : Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles(Director Nakjung Kim)  
National Hangeul Museum (Director Chulmin Kim)
- ▶ Special Speaker : John Duncan (Director of UCLA Center for Korean Studies)
- ▶ Moderator : Namhee Lee (Professor at CSULA)
- ▶ Other Speakers : Sung-Ock Sohn (Professor at UCLA), Chad Walker (USC PhD Candidate), Seonkyung Jeon (Ph.D. in Korean Linguistics), Jennifer Jung-Kim (Ph.D. in Korean History)
- ▶ Contact Information : National Hangeul Museum (82-2-2124-6452/ [dharm72@korea.kr](mailto:dharm72@korea.kr))  
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### *King Sejong's Invention of Hangeul: In the Perspective of US Scholars at at UCLA Center for Korean Studies*

The academic conference is held at UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, for local residents, college students, and academic parties interested in Hangeul. The Director of Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles Nakjung Kim will deliver a congratulatory speech, followed by a speech by the Director of the National Hangeul Museum, Chulmin Kim, on the function and vision of the Museum. Professor John Duncan, the Co-Director at UCLA Center for Korean Studies, Professor Sung-Ock Sohn, faculty member at UCLA Department of Asian Language & Cultures, and Chad Walker, a PhD candidate at USC, will present lectures and lead discussions on the significance of the creation of Hangeul, outstanding characteristics of Hangeul as a phonetic alphabet, and its education environment.

Using this academic conference as a momentum, National Hangeul Museum and UCLA Center for Korean Studies will continually collaborate to promote Hangeul-related academic research, and exchange and form business systems for Hangeul-related enterprises.

## 2. SPECIAL EXHIBITION

- ▶ Title : *Sounds × Hangeul: Variation of the Korean Alphabet*
- ▶ Date : May 9 – June 2 , 2017
- ▶ Opening Reception : Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:00p.m.
- ▶ Place : Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (5505 Wilshire Blvd. LA, CA 90036)
- ▶ Participating Artists : Kim Yun-tae, Nameless, Vakki, Seok Jae-won, Wang Hyun-min, Jang Sung, Jung Jin-yeoul, Ha Jee-hoon, Kim Hyun-suk, Yeo In-gi, Lee Dong-hyeon
- ▶ More Information : National Hangeul Museum (82-2-2124-6323)/ shjh8810@korea.kr  
Heeseon Choi at 323-936-3014 / exhibition@kccla.org

### *Infinite Formativeness and Expansion of Hangeul unraveled by designers from 9 teams*

Furthermore, the special exhibition *Sounds × Hangeul: Variation of the Korean Alphabet* will launch at the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. This exhibition consists of two parts: “Hangeul Embracing the Sounds” and “Sound x Design”. “Hangeul Embracing the Sounds” compares Hangeul and English Alphabet and depicts King Sejong’s heart for his people and reasoning behind creating Hangeul and the phonemic characteristics of Hangeul. The second part “Sound x Design” exhibits about 30 works by designers of various genres, including media art, furniture, lighting, etc., which express the sound of Hangeul.

The special exhibition focuses on the visual aspect of Hangeul and how the sound and phonetic features of Hangeul are imaged. It also focuses on the phonetic aspect of Hangeul and how its sound is captured and recorded. In the exhibition, the designers’ works of graphic arts, furniture, and accessories manifest how various meanings and sounds of Hangeul are formed and how the basic eight letters of Hangeul are expanded.

Nakjung Kim, the director of Korean Cultural Center, stated, “Because Hangeul is scientifically superb and complete, Hangeul is highly appreciated in the digital era. The academic conference and special exhibition at Korean Cultural Center will re-emphasize the value of Hangeul and widely spread Hangeul and its culture to the mainstream of the United States.”

## <Attachment>

### ▶ Participating Artists;

#### 1. Kim Yun-tae (Title / Sound Emo-Hangeul)

This artwork emphasizes the idea that separate Hangeul phonemes can be combined to form one word by utilizing three projectors that beam on the same screen. Hangeul phonemes located at the positions of eyes, nose, and mouth are spotlighted with three basic colors—red, green and blue. As the three basic colors are combined to produce unlimited color variations, distinct Hangeul phonemes are combined to generate unlimited sounds.



#### 2. NAMELESS (Title / Between the Lines)

Hangeul is liberal. Hangeul achieves freedom when the minimum number of Hangeul letters results in maximized communication. Hangeul achieves 11,172 combinations of letters from the eight basic letters. This essential value of Hangeul is portrayed by this artwork that spatializes the eight basic letters of Hangeul. The lines of five consonants and three vowels of Hangeul become three-dimensional. Between the lines empty spaces are created. The spatial variations formed by the eight structures signify the essential value that Hangeul possesses.



3. Vakki (Title / Movements to Create Letters)

The connected bars moved by electric power generate movements that show how Hangeul letters are drawn. Each module portrays in the air through repeated movements the process that the shapes “ㄴ,” “ㅇ,” and “ㅁ” are formed. This artwork consists of three structures to indicate the three Hangeul elements. There are colorfully designed Hangeul letters—“ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅇ, ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅎ”—hidden in the artwork, which will give additional attraction for the viewers.



4. Seok Jae-won (Title / Hangeul Portamento)

Portamento is an instrumental technique that slides through the in-between musical notes when moving from one note to another. How much amplitude of sound exists between “ㄱ” and “ㅋ”? Hangeul letters have five basic shapes. As sound becomes rougher, a stroke is added to the basic shapes. Because of this principle of adding strokes, Hangeul phonemes can be easily expanded with the potential to embrace all of the sounds in the world. This potential is highlighted by the artwork.



5. Wang Hyun-min (Title/Wave Series-Wave ‘ | ’, Wave ‘ ㄷ ’, Wave ‘ · ’, Wave ‘ 〇 ’)  
Hangeul and English are phonetic alphabets. Hangeul and English are visually simple and have scientific sound systems. For the letter “ㄷ” the pronunciation “기역” is immediately reminded. As soon as “기역” is pronounced, the characters become a sound and wave length. *Wave Series* visually expresses the continuity that Hangeul is switched to sound by portraying the images of Hangeul and sound amplitude.



6. Jang Sung (Title / Hangeul and Mobi)  
Among many attributes of Hangeul, the aspect that I hold special interest is in its modern geometric form and its tendency to compose a character through a type of formal, dimensional assembly as opposed to linear approaches found in most other written language systems. Hangeul's ability to compose structural geometry has drawn attention in relevance to my recent modular work called Mobi, a system that generates functional form through a repetitious assembly. For this exhibit, I have merged Hangeul and Mobi units to compose a low table, reconfigurable in ways appropriated by the mechanisms of each. Every table top contains elements of Hangeul characters, which can be used to compose words and messages by the user.



7. Jung Jin-yeoul (Title Urban Noise: L.A.)

This project is based on the artist's two-week stay in the Los Angeles. During the stay, the artist collected sounds and transformed them into onomatopoeia. The various sounds collected on the streets of Los Angeles express the nature of the city as a modern industrial city and a multicultural city. The collected sounds include machine noises from construction sites, artificial sounds of signals from sensors and network infrastructures, sirens from patrol cars and ambulances, noises from surveillance helicopters, voices of diverse cultural groups on the streets and shops, water sounds from fountains and pools, and sounds of nature from beaches and woods. These sounds represent various features of Los Angeles. In this project the collected sounds are re-examined and re-expressed as they sound rather than relying on preexisting onomatopoeia. In addition, this project manifests the potential of Hangeul as a phonetic alphabet for extensive sound expression.

8. Ha Jee-hoon (Title / Hangeul Table Ware)

This artwork is a daily life accessory that presents the unique features of Hangeul, which allows combination of characters. Highlighting the special aspect of Hangeul that its characters can be combined, four layers that consist of consonants and vowels are amassed in this artwork. The wooden layers are created by the unique method of CNC manufacturing rather than laying a layer over one another and emphasizes the beauty of craft. Furthermore, by applying Hangeul art to a daily life accessory this artwork encourages the users to metaphorically recognize the special features of Hangeul.



9. Kim Hyun-suk, Yeo In-gi, Lee Dong-hyeon(Title/ Big Bowl for Sound—Hangeul)  
Humans have created letters to conquer time and space. Hangeul, which is a phonetic alphabet, is based on the idea of sky, earth, human, and sound. The eight basic letters of Hangeul are expanded to twenty-eight letters; The twenty-eight consonants and vowels are combined to produce 11,171 sounds. Hangeul, the phonetic alphabet that utilizes a minimum number of characters and maximizes communication, is a big bowl which can embrace not only the sound of nature such as wind and crane's singing but also the Korean mind, spirit, and culture.