


[2023-25]

 한국문화원 Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles	Press Release	다시, 대한민국! 새로운 국민의 나라
Request	For Immediate Release	Pages: 3
Release Date	May 31, 2023 (Wednesday)	Contact Tammy Cho, (323) 936-3014

**Special Exhibition commemorating
the 120th Year of Korean immigration to the United States**
***SIKGU* (식구)**



- ▶ **Event:** Special Exhibition commemorating the 120th Year of Korean immigration to the US *SIKGU* (식구)
- ▶ **Date:** June 9(Friday) – June 30(Friday), 2023
- ▶ **Opening Reception:** Friday, June 9, 2023 / 6:30PM-9:00PM
- ▶ **Guest Curator:** Hyonjeong Kim Han (Denver Art Museum, Department Head of Asian Art)
- ▶ **Artists:** Sammy Seung-Min Lee, Miran Lim Lee
- ▶ **Location:** Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles Art Gallery (2nd Floor)
5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036
- ▶ **Exhibition Presenter:** Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA)
- ▶ **For more info:** Tammy Cho, (323) 936-3014 or tammy@kccla.org
* **Gallery Open Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm**

Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA, Director Sangwon Jung) proudly presents the Special Exhibition commemorating the 120th Year of Korean immigration to the United States, **SIKGU (식구)**, which will open with a reception at the Korean Cultural Center Art Gallery (located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90036) from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023.

Sikgu (식구) is a Korean word for family, but it encompasses a deeper concept. 'Sik' can be translated as eating, and 'gu' means mouth. Therefore, *sikgu* literally refers to family members or groups of very close people who share meals and embrace the same food culture. In Korean society, food often holds more significance than mere consumption. The two artists in the exhibition have distinct immigration stories. Miran Lee arrived in the States 13 years ago as a mother and wife, while Sammy Lee came to Los Angeles more than 30 years ago as a high school student to pursue art studies.

In her two works in this exhibition, **Sammy Seung-Min Lee** explores the diverse food cultures of different ethnic groups, delving into the realms of memories and yearnings through table settings. *Sikgu* members, culturally connected beyond genetic ties, cherish shared emotions, feelings, and care.



Very Proper Table Settings 2017-2023



Sammy Seung-Min Lee

Miran Lim Lee's artwork, *Did You Eat, I Love You!* sheds light on the Korean sentiment that feeding others or even asking whether being fed is an expression of love and care. Within her numerous *Habitat* works, one can contemplate the love and care that can exist within a home and question the differences between houses and homes.



Did You Eat, I Love You!, 2019



Miran Lim Lee

Director Sangwon Jung said, “It is a great honor to hold this exhibition to commemorate the 120th year of Korean immigration to the United States. The *Sikgu* exhibition invites us to contemplate our immigrant history, food culture, families, *sikgu*, and ourselves. It prompts us to reflect on our memories and experiences of our favorite dishes and the individuals who shared them with us.”

The guest curator, Hyonjeong Kim Han, said, “The two artists' works are deeply rooted in traditional Korean art and materials. Sammy Lee primarily employs Korean mulberry paper as her medium, while Miran Lee selects traditional silk for her works. Upholding traditional techniques, they also seek innovation in their approaches and materials. Through their artworks, the two artists encourage us to ponder these profound questions in this exhibition.”

This exhibition is presented by the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles to commemorate the 120th Year of Korean immigration to the United States.

The exhibition is open to the public, and the show will run until June 30th, 2023.