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Korean craftworks spotlighted in Munich

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The Bavarian National Museum in Munich, Germany, launched a special exhibition on Feb. 20 offering a rare glimpse at sets of craftworks created by Korean artists.

The Korean Craft & Design in Munich 2016 show, currently underway at the museum until March 28, was made possible after Korea was invited to be a major partner for the 2017 Munich Creative Business Week (MCBW).



Choi Byung-hoon's 'Afterimage 011-372' is a plate varnished with lacquer.

Focusing on "individuality and simplicity," this exhibition consists of four sections: Containing, Wearing, Seating and Reading. For this show, about 50 artists have showcased their works - - 506 in total -- with works that include ceramics, furniture, accessories and lacquerware.

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Among the exhibits featured here is Choi Byung-hoon's "Afterimage 011-371," a piece of lacquerware that feels like one is looking at a serene lake, as its surface, varnished with lacquer, reflects the landscape.

Gio Ki-sang's "A Noble Table" collection highlights traditional brass dishes that are effective at keeping food warm and cold, and which are also good at reducing bacterial growth. Park Won-min has created a set of stools made out of resin, a material rarely used to make furniture. The furniture exudes an aesthetic of simplicity, as it resembles a light-colored work of ink wash painting.

In addition, there are brooches made of braided leather patches, a wooden bench created using techniques from Joseon times, a wooden storage closet with a nickel pattern made using traditional techniques originally from the Pyongyang area in North Korea.

All these artistic handiworks will give Munich museum goers great delight as they discover Korean traditions embedded in each creation.

By Sohn JiAe
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Photos: Korea Craft & Design Foundation

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