THE CENTRE FOR KOREAN RESEARCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

KOREAN CHAEGEORI STILL-LIFE PAINTINGS: THEIR ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

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Friday, March 6, 2020
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Room 120,
C.K. Choi Bldg
1855 West Mall,
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The origin and development of Korean still-life painting, Chaekgeori, which first appeared in the 18th century, has been much studied during the last three decades in Korea and the West. The cornucopia of foreign, exotic, and colorful objects painted in multi-panel screens amazed and puzzled viewers in the past and remains appealing today. What explains the sudden emergence of these unprecedented still-life paintings? Where did these Western and modern clocks, eyeglasses, exotic fruits, and cabinets come from? How did Western painting techniques, modeling, shading, and linear perspective appear? This talk will describe the origin of Chaekgeori screens in cross-cultural context and explore their development from social, cultural, and artistic perspectives. Favored and promoted by King Jeongjo (r. 1776-1800), Chaekgeori soon became popular and spread among elites, professionals, and commoners in Joseon Korea; yet each class projected its own ideals, desires, and aspirations while maintaining its realities and limitations. Through the study and appreciation of Chaekgeori we can understand more of the material culture of Joseon society and of the humor, artistic sense, and aesthetic sensibility of the people. We will also examine how Chaekgeori has inspired modern and contemporary artists and will peek at it in today’s Korean art realm.