

# SETTING THINGS **A-GLAZE**

Acclaimed Korean ceramicist Sung Jae Choi will hold a workshop in the first week of February

SHRUTI MENON

DECCAN CHRONICLE

 A specialist workshop organised by InKo Centre in association with Lalit Kala Akademi and DakshinaChitra will take place in the first two weeks of February at the DakshinaChitra Centre. Sung Jae Choi, currently professor in the Department of Traditional Art and Craft at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage in Seoul, Korea, has great skills in glazing and has a passion for teaching. Sung will share his techniques and experiences with six other aspiring Indian artists.

Ceramic art is a fusion of technical skill and science, and is popular in Korea where Sung Jae Choi is very well known, says Palaniappan, Regional Secretary of Lalit Kala Akademi and a graphic artist himself. He is in India to share his knowledge of an art form that calls for tremendous skill and patience "to make sure everything goes according to plan," he adds. Last year, six Korean and six Indian artists worked together for five weeks at the Kalakshetra Foundation. Their art works were later displayed at an exhibition. "This time we wanted a

specialised workshop that delivered the proper skill and techniques involved in glazing and Sung Jae Choi is very well versed in the different glaze techniques," says Palaniappan.

So what is ceramic glazing? "A glaze is a silica compound which, when heated, turns into a glass layer," explains Ms Kaveri, ceramicist in charge at DakshinaChitra. "When you make an object out of clay you fire it once (this is called biscuit firing). Then you apply the glaze either with a brush or spray and then you fire the object again at a higher temperature. The glaze melts and forms a nice glassy coating. Mr Sung Jae Choi will demonstrate a special kind of glazing, called High Iron K Body," she explains, with enthusiasm.

This one-of-a-kind workshop will be of use to students of fine arts who have been invited and has been organised by the pioneering efforts of the InKo Centre, Chennai.

Choi's  
glazed art



**ON A GLAZE:** Korean ceramic artist Choi gives a final touch to his creation

**Professor Sung Jae Choi is very well known in Korea where the ceramic art form is very popular**

**PALANIAPPAN  
LALIT KALA  
AKADEMI**



# A narrative in clay

Korean artist Sung Jae Choi, who will lead a glaze workshop at Dakshina Chitra, shares notes on technique and using tools of nature

workshop

**W**HILE last year's residential workshop at Kalakshetra saw 12 ceramic artists (from India and Korea) working for four weeks, this year, InKo Centre in association with Lalit Kala Akademi and DakshinaChitra, will be hosting a two-week Ceramic Glaze workshop for practising artists. "We came up with this workshop based on the success of the one at Kalakshetra last year. We are planning to have two more residential programs in the future. One will see Indians going to Korea for a six-week-long workshop and the second will be technique-based with experts participating," offers Rathi Jafer, director of Inko Centre. This year, acclaimed Korean ceramicist Sung Jae Choi will lead a two-week glaze workshop at DakshinaChitra, from February 1-15.

"Six Indians from places like Hyderabad, Pondicherry and Vadodara will participate in it. Along with Choi, the artists will share their glazing techniques. We have also invited students from different colleges to the exhibition," adds Jafer.

## Brush, stamp and decorate

Sung Jae Choi, who has several exhibitions to his credit, and whose works are included in many prestigious collections around the world, is a professor at The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage in Seoul. Choi will introduce participants to traditional Buncheong Ware styles. "I will be teaching them different techniques like the inlaid technique, stamping

technique, sgraffito technique (a technique done on walls), brushing technique and slip decoration technique. Buncheong Ware is Korean stoneware in a bluish-green tone. The pots are coated with a white slip (paper) and decorative designs are repainted on using an iron pigment," he says. The artist will also be using twigs, bamboo shoots and millet stalks in his creations and when asked why, he says, "for an artist, his tools are an important method to express himself. I use tools from nature so that I can create natural images and express my feelings on the white slip."



## To each his own

Though 53-year-old Choi, who has attended more than 15 workshops, started off as a sculptor and installation artist, he switched to making ceramic products after a two year residential workshop in Canada and the US. "I began to question my work and later, changed my techniques to such a way that it would closely align with the Korean traditional style. I'm working in this manner for the last 18 years," he says, adding, "I have recently started using colour in my work and find it very interesting."

At DakshinaChitra, from February 1 to 15. Details: 24361224

—Mrinalini Sundar

## Finishing touch

InKo Centre, in association with Lalit Kala Akademi and DakshinaChitra, presents a two-week specialist ceramic glaze workshop for practising ceramic artists. Korean ceramicist Sung Jae Choi will lead the workshop. Sung Jae Choi, who has several exhibitions to his credit, is a glaze specialist whose works are included in many prestigious collections around the world. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Traditional Art and Craft at The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage in Seoul, Korea.

The workshop is on at DakshinaChitra till February 15. For details and registration, call InKo Centre (2436-1224), Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre (2829-1692) or DakshinaChitra (2747-2783) or mail enquiries@inkocentre.org or lka.chennai@gmail.com.