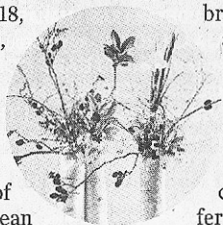


When beauty blooms

InKo Centre, in association with Ggotgozi Korea, presents a Korean floral art work exhibition, on June 18, at InKo Centre, No.18, Adyar. It will showcase the artwork of 13 flower associations from Korea and the unique technique of Ggotgozi or Korean Flower Art. With flowers imported from Korea and the specialists present, the evening combines a Ggotgozi demonstration as well as an exhibition.

Ggotgozi emphasises simplicity and space in creating



harmony of lines. To achieve balance and focus, space is left between flowers and branches, giving rise to a sense of delicacy and airiness. This delicacy is unforced, encouraging reflection and peace. Simple white ceramic vases of different shapes, inspired by the ancient Joseon Kingdom, are used to highlight various flowers and tree branches in arrangements that speak of streams, river-washed rocks and natural beauty.

For details, contact InKo Centre at 044 2436 1224.

Korean flower artists to be in full bloom at city expo

Priya Menon
@timesgroup.com

L.R. Shankar

Chennai: A sweet fragrance of roses, lilies and carnations fill the air. As the rain gently trickles down the rooftop, Korean flower artists give finishing touches to their beautiful floral work, each imbued with a special meaning.

For the first time InKo Centre, with Ggotggozi Korea, is holding a Korean floral art exhibition, which opened on Thursday. "Ggotggozi or Korean Flower Art is closely linked to the evolution of the Korean tea ceremony," says InKo Centre director Rathi Jafer.

"Recently, Ggotggozi has been revived as an indoor art which is also taught in many schools," Jafer said.

About 13 Korean flower art associations will participate in the expo. "There are 23 types of floral arrangements. We imported about 100 varieties of flowers," says Myung Sook-Choi, chairman, Korea Ggotggozi Association, one of the oldest such Korean associations, dating back to 1965. "We came to India as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations."



FINISHING TOUCH: A artist at the first Korean flower art exhibition in InKo Centre on Thursday

Unlike Ikebana, the Japanese flower-arrangement technique, Ggotggozi stresses on natural arrangements. "Each artist adds a special meaning to the art," says Kwak Eun Joo, a participating artist.

Korean flower arrangements use simple white ceramic vases inspired by the Joseon dynasty. Lilies, sunflowers, carnations, and rainbow pink iris are some of the main flowers used.

The exhibition marks the beginning of a new initiative.

"We are signing an MoU with the Korea Ggotggozi Association, and see the exhibition as the start of a long-term arrangement focusing on the Korean flower art techniques. There will be classes, seminars and exhibitions," says Jafer. "We will also look at how we can connect the art with Indian florists by using local flowers."

The exhibition will be held at The Gallery@InKo Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, on June 19 and 20 from 10am to 6pm.



Let there be spaces...

Chennai witnessed Ggotggozi — the first Korean Flower Art exhibition in India recently. We speak to Korean floral artists on this art form, which utilises the space between branches to create an aesthetic of simplicity

TUBA RAQSHAN

DECCAN CHRONICLE

An exhibition of Ggotggozi, or Korean flower art, happened for the first time in India at the InKo Centre in Chennai. This art form utilises the spaces between the flowers and branches to achieve balance, encourage focus, and give a sense of fragility. A simple ceramic vase inspired by the ancient Joseon Kingdom is used to highlight the different types of flowers and branches used in elegant arrangements. According to historians, the evolution of the Korean tea cere-

mony probably influenced these floral arrangements. Sprigs of pear blossoms are a classic favourite, while leaves, ferns and grasses are used with stones, pumpkin shells and *hanji*, the traditional Korean paper.

Myung Sook Choi, chairman of the Korea Ggotggozi Association, revealed that in contemporary times, this art form is more a daily habit than an exotic ritual. "Nowadays in Korea, Ggotggozi is thought to be more of an everyday life activity rather than a gorgeous ornament or a luxury. The interesting thing about Korean Ggotggozi is that its

appeal increases the more one looks at it. With just a few materials, a Ggotggozi creation can decorate a large space," she added, using orange, white and green flowers (symbolizing the Indian flag) in her lavish arrange-

ment during the demonstration.

Floral artist Kwak Eun Joo explained the concept of YeoBack. "YeoBack is not just the empty space between the flowers and branches. In Korean Ggotggozi, the empty space is also considered as a type of flower arrangement. Space is seen as a place of infinite possibilities," she said.

Phillip A. Min, the Consul General of the United States of America, was present with his wife, Eun Young Lee. He said, "This is a beautiful art form. I hope we try to bring the two cultures together, as flowers play such an important role in both the cultures." An MoU was signed between Korea Ggotggozi Association and the

InKo Centre. Korean Consul General, Kyungsoo Kim, who was present at the inauguration, said Ggotggozi's simplicity appeals to him. "This art form uses flowers and space in the simplest matter, to create a natural arrangement. I enjoy living in Chennai because flowers here bloom throughout the year. Everything is so colourful — not just the flowers but the houses too. I hope there will be an exchange of art between Indian and Korean floral artists," he signed off.

I
enjoy
living in Chennai
because flowers here
bloom throughout the year

— KYUNGSOO KIM,
CONSUL GENERAL



Photos: Praveen Tyagarajan



In bloom and blossom

The art of flower arrangement is common in a lot of countries including Egypt, China, Rome and Greece. In Korea also, this art is quite popular. So, when the InKo centre organised a Korean Flower Art exhibition, expats from various cultures flocked the venue to catch a glimpse of the set up. Ggotgozi or Korean flower art emphasises simplicity and space in creating harmony of lines. To achieve balance and encourage focus in the spectators, space is left between flowers and branches, giving rise to a sense of space. **Hwang Ki Jung** struck a pose for our lensmen in her traditional pink outfit. Also spotted in traditional wear was **Choi Myung Sook**. **Rathi**, played the part of a gracious host, and made sure that her guests were well-taken-care-of. The guests were all sported wearing purple flower brooches to commemorate the event.

Nyna and Sergey



Choi Myung Sook



Hwang Ki Jung



Rathi



Kyungsoo Kim



Juaee



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Juaee Park poses for the shutterbugs at a Korean Flower Art exhibition at Inko Centre, Chennai

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Korean art to bloom at InKo flower exhibition

Priya Menon, TNN | Jun 19, 2015, 02.00AM IST

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CHENNAI: The smell of roses, lilies and carnations fill the air. As the rain gently drips onto the roof, Korean flower artists work to create beautiful floral arrangements, each imbued with its own special meaning.

For the first time, InKo Centre in association with Ggotggozi Korea, is presenting a Korean floral art work exhibition, which was inaugurated on June 18. "Ggotggozi or Korean Flower Art is closely linked with the evolution of the Korean tea ceremony," says Dr Rathi Jafer, director, InKo Centre. As the elaborate ceremony developed, floral arrangements were used to enhance it.

"Recently, Ggotggozi has experienced a revival as an indoor art and now there are several schools that teach it," says Jafer.

About 13 Korean flower art associations are represented at the exhibition. "There are 23 different arrangements and we have imported almost 100 different varieties of flowers," says Myung Sook-Choi, chairman, Korea Ggotggozi Association. Her association is, in fact one of the oldest and most traditional associations in Korea, dating back to 1965. "We have come down to India as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations," she says, with a smile.

Unlike Ikebana, which is a more formal flower arrangement technique from Japan, Ggotggozi stresses on more natural looking arrangements. "Each artist brings a special meaning to their art," says Kwak Eun Joo, one of the 11 artists who has come down for the exhibition. "Also, the use of space is important in Ggotggozi," she says. Space is left between flowers and branches to achieve balance and encourage focus.

Using the beauty of lines and space, YeoBack is a unique aspect of Ggotggozi. YeoBack is not just empty space, but space seen as an infinite place of possibilities.

In Korean flower arrangements, simple white ceramic vases of various shapes, inspired by the Joseon dynasty, are used, highlighting the arrangement. "The idea is to create something absolutely natural," says Joo. Lilies, sunflowers, carnations, and rainbow pink iris are some of the main flowers used.

The exhibition marks the beginning of a new initiative. "We are signing an MoU with the Korea Ggotggozi Association, and hope that the exhibition is the start of a long-term arrangement looking at Korean flower art techniques. There will be classes, demos, seminars and exhibitions," says Dr Rathi Jafer. "We will also be looking at how we can link with Indian florists using local flowers."

The exhibition is on at The Gallery@InKo Centre, No. 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, on June 19 and 20 from 10am to 6pm.



In Korean flower arrangements, simple white ceramic vases of various shapes, inspired by the Joseon dynasty, are used, highlighting the arrangement. "The idea is to create something absolutely natural," says Joo. Lilies, sunflowers, carnations, and rainbow pink iris are some of the main flowers used.

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Flower power

PUSHPA CHARI

Chennai enjoyed a rare treat at a two-day Korean Flower Art Show held under the auspices of the INKO Centre and Ggotggozi Korea.

A faint, tantalising fragrance of carnation, rose, lily and iris nestling between ferns, twigs and moss beckoned visitors. The delicacy and beauty of the flowers, specially flown from Korea, and the celebration of spaces between the flowers and the branches, is unique to Korea's flower arrangement or Ggotggozi.

Each arrangement spoke of harmony and Nature's beauty, suggesting streams, grass and river-washed rocks, an effect heightened by the simple white ceramic containers in which the flowers were arranged.

Setting off white against purple carnations in a stunning arrangement with twigs and roses; roses clambering over a moss covered stone; white lilies placed in contrasting black containers... a treat, indeed! Thick leaves folded to form containers holding white roses and a formation of white twigs in a vase like formation over which orchids clambered, were exquisite examples of 'natural' floral art.

Pervading the 23 floral arrangements done by 13 Korean artists, were the basic tenets of Korean art --



▲ Various Korean floral arrangements. PHOTOS: R. RAVINDRAN.

minimalism, peace and harmony.

Ms. Kwak, who lives in Chennai, had created a fascinating arrangement as a tribute to India, which had the colours of the Indian flag



along with lotus, onion flowers and woven strips of 'phoenix' leaves, all found in India.

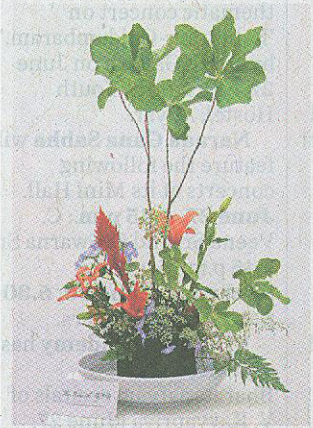
According to Ms. Kwak, the Korean flower art might have begun as floral offerings of Shamanism and Buddhism, which were both popular in the Tusan period.

"Today, floral art has no religious connotation," she says. However, historians believe that the evolution of the Korean Tea ceremony probably influenced flower arrangements. As the elegant elaborate tea ceremony developed, floral arrangements too were used to enhance it. Sprigs of pear blossoms, leaves, ferns and grass were used.

"The Korean Tea ceremony is called 'Da Hwa' or tea flower ceremony," says Ms. Kwak.



"We sit on the ground on mats for the 'Da Hwa' ceremony with a low table in the middle on which a small, simple flower arrangement is placed, consisting perhaps of 2-3 flowers. By and large, flower



art is not connected to tradition, or taught as tradition to young women, though there is an academy in Seoul where this art is taught. Just like many old aspects of our culture such as calligraphy and the tea ceremony, flower arrangements too are coming back into vogue." The Ggotggozi exhibition, the first ever to be held in India, also marks the signing of a MoU between INKO Centre and Ggotggozi Korea. As Rathi Jaffer, director of INKO Centre, puts it, "We will partner with them for demonstrations, workshops, flower exhibitions, etc., to sensitise Indians about the Korean culture." Floral art enthusiasts can now look forward to Ggotggozi flower arrangements classes soon.