



## Snapshots from Korea



LENS VIEW At Arirang

*Rays of light, dreamy landscapes, hypnotic waves and fishing boats form the backdrop of the photographs at Ari Arirang*

The white interiors of InKo Centre's gallery are an elegant setting for Ari Arirang, an exhibition of 12 photographs shot by celebrated South Korean photographer Kim Kyung Sang.

The pictures have an ethereal quality about them, and focus on the essence of Korea. 'Arirang', the poem considered the unofficial national anthem of South Korea, has key thematic relevance here.

Rathi Jafer, director of InKo Centre, says the 'Arirang' melody and different versions of this folk song capture the very essence of the Korean spirit.

That's what Kim Kyung Sang attempts to capture: what lies at the heart of Korean tradition and folk culture, architecture and society?

This perspective on people in the context of their culture is apparent in the pictures. Some portray traditional Korean artists in stunning white, with a free-flowing translucence.

Lighting also has an important role in Kim's photography; he plays with soft haze and rays of light to create a dreamy landscape, or uses ambient lighting to, quite literally, highlight certain elements.

The works alternate between a subdued palette and vibrant colours, Rathi elaborates, noting that both styles co-exist in Korean culture; the two ends of the spectrum represent the dynamism of the whole.

The choice of canvas as a display medium leaves the images with a painting-like texture, highlighting its visual qualities.

A fishing boat nestled in the calm of the ocean and the rays at dawn punctuating the settling mist are particularly memorable images from the exhibition.

The gently rolling waves are hypnotic, and you can almost hear the water nudging the boat, and the light conversation of the boat's occupants travelling in the breeze.

There is no explicit reference to any of this, yet the photography is evocative of the subtle balance between man and Nature.