

# LIVING LIFE THE ZEN WAY

SUBUL SUNIM, BUDDHIST MONK OF THE JOGYE ORDER, DISCIPLE OF BODHIDHARMA, UNFURLS HIS OBSERVATION AND OPINION ON LIFE EMPOWERMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

Subul Sunim hadn't even found Buddhism until he was 21. His family had always followed the Korean religion Ch'ondogyo. It was later that he started spreading this form of Zen Buddhism from to China, Mongolia and Korea.

"It was by chance that I happened to enter a Buddhist temple. It felt as if it was my own home and I was asked if I wanted to shave my head and become a monk. It was my karma,



I think," says the abbot, "Now, I feel I was a monk even in my previous life."

The abbot met Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS Motor Company, at the Biennale in Busan, Korea, and was in turn invited to inaugurate the Chennai Photo Biennale. "Srinivasan felt that I was his teacher in his previous birth when he entered the temple. From that moment, we have been in touch and enjoy a good relationship," he says.

He refers to his people as the descendants of Master Bodhidharma, a prince of Kanchipuram and the founder of Zen Buddhism. Bodhidharma moved to China in the sixth century to spread the spiritual teachings of Zen because, says Sunim, "It was his karma".

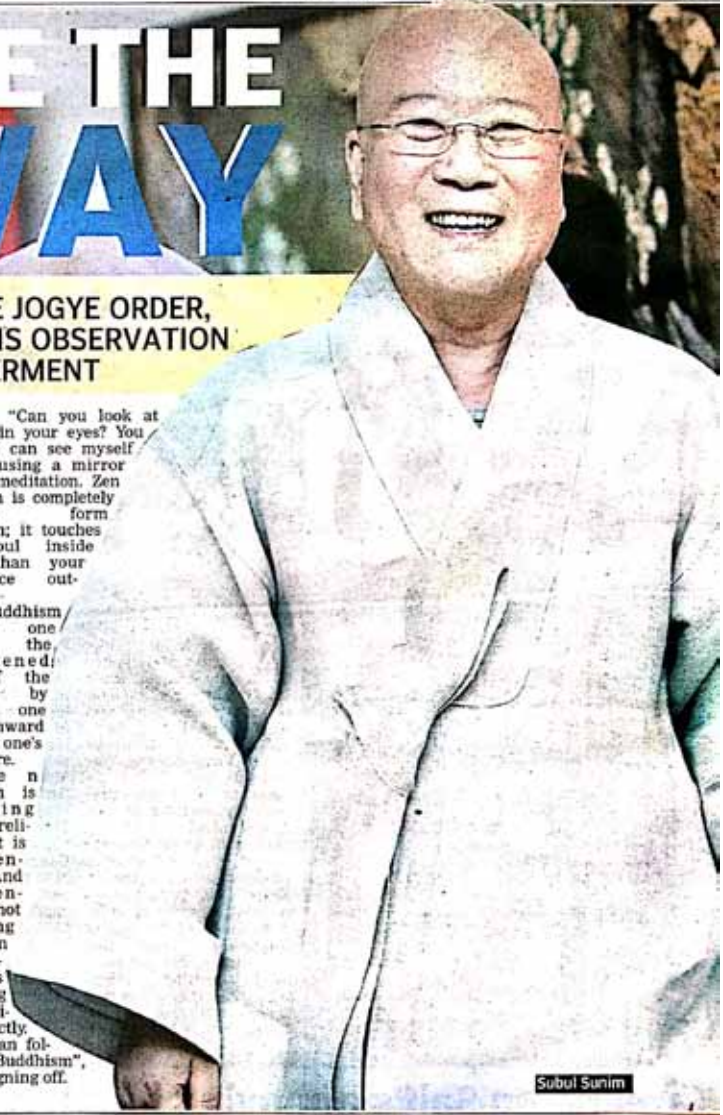
"There is nothing called religion, it is only a way of life. We had no religion before 5000 years, everything depends on how we live", says the abbot addressing the diversity of religion in India.

When asked about his teachings on mindfulness and meditation, the monk

explains, "Can you look at yourself in your eyes? You cannot. I can see myself without using a mirror through meditation. Zen Buddhism is completely different form Buddhism; it touches your soul inside rather than your appearance outside".

Zen Buddhism teaches one about the enlightened mind of the Buddha, by making one look inward and see one's true nature.

"Zen Buddhism is something beyond religion — it is enlightenment. And enlightenment is not something you can teach people. It's something you experience directly. Anyone can follow Zen Buddhism", he says signing off.



Subul Sunim

# Vignettes from Seoul

From paint on canvas to ceramic jars and bowls, 140 Korean works of art are on display in the city for a week

By GOWRI S

Heavy, aggressive brush strokes of every colour show a horse in motion across a canvas. Lavishly layered paint captures the animal mid-leap, as the moon stares from a distance.

In another work, a parched white background - with fragments and cracks - contains a brown semi-circle, predominantly done on Hanji paper. Moving closer, one realises that there are inscriptions on the uneven brown surface.

Yet another work paints an out-of-focus picture of a casual day at the beach; replete with varying hues of the sky and a mirage.

These are just three of the 140 works by Korean artists, currently on display at Lalit Kala Akademi, at the Chennai Biennale 2019, organised by InKo Centre in association with Kart.

Many genres, many colours (The collection in this edition) titled Beyond the Frame, spans genres - traditional, contemporary, abstract, real-

ist and surrealist - and aims to provide Indian audiences with a bird's eye view of Korean art practices.

The walls of Lalit Kala Akademi are unusually crowded, with some of the works are layered with meaning and technique (to the point that some of them take to optical illusion), others are honest retellings of everyday signs and traditional art practices.

Such as the one that recalls one of the happiest moments of artist Lee, Kang Soo's life - her wedding day. This work might appear 'in the face' at first glance, but the rendition, which features the bridesmaids along with the couple, is layered. She explains, "There is this moment of anticipation. In a traditional Korean wedding, the bride is not allowed to see the groom until the wedding day. Even the bridesmaids' facial expressions speak of a certain sense of speculation," Lee says.

The display is a mix of sculptures, ceramics, works and paintings. For instance, Tears of Oedipus by Sung, Min-Ae is a bronze sculpture of a woman's

naked torso, her shoulders clenched, seeming to take a step forward.



THE HINDU METROPLUS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Marriage of cultures This edition features techniques like factual expressionist, abstract and Korean traditional paintings. ■ R RAJUL  
ADITI SUBRAMANIAN



imperfections; through blemishes and craters.

This edition of the Chennai Biennale has 111 flat paintings, two bronze sculptures and one set of ceramic bowls - called 'Maksabal' in Korean - along with the chiljang jar. Curator In-jun Kim says, "These works express the various techniques like factual expressionist, abstract, and non-conceptual Korean traditional painting... The works are done with a focus on Korean philosophy and aesthetics."

She adds, "The contemporary art movement in Korea since the mid-1980s is influenced by American contemporary art. We believe in creating a conversation by intermingling different cultures."

Chennai Biennale 2019, Beyond the Frame will be on display at Lalit Kala Akademi, Greenis Road until October 1.

(With inputs from Aditi Subramanian)



## Chennai Biennale gets under way at Lalit Kala Akademi

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**CHENNAI**

The Chennai Biennale 2019 got under way at the Lalit Kala Akademi on Thursday.

Abbot Subul Sumin, Anguk Zen Center, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism and co-president, Korea-India Cultural Exchange, who inaugurated the exhibition of paintings by Korean artists, titled 'Beyond the Frame', said there was a deep connection between India and Korea. He said India was the land of Zen Buddhism's founder Bodhi Dharma.

Industrialist and Goodwill Envoy of the Republic of Korea Venu Srinivasan released a special catalogue, which was received by Hyung Tae Kim, Consul General of the Republic of Korea. Heo Sook, chairperson, K-Art International Exchange Association Inc, said so far, the works of 900 Korean artists had been featured in the biennales and Hyundai Spectrum exhibitions over the last 12 years in Chennai.

Rathi Jafer, director, InKo Centre, said it was a non-profit society supported mainly by TVS Motor Company and Hyundai Motor India. The exhibition, organised by K-Art and InKo Centre, will be on till October 1.



16 SEPT 2019

CHENNAI TIMES

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of curated, bi-annual exhibitions that aims to showcase the range and variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, at 6.30pm, on September 19.

CHENNAI TIMES

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

WHAT'S HOT | CHENNAI TIMES

**Beyond the Frame, Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1;** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is a bi-annual exhibition that aims to showcase the range and variety of

contemporary paintings from Korea.

ART

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

CHENNAI TIMES

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

CHENNAI TIMES

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

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**Chennai Biennale 2019 - Beyond The Frame:** The fourth edition of the Chennai Biennale presents a focused collection of 120 contemporary artworks from Korea. Several artists from Korea will be present at the inauguration to introduce their work, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

CHENNAI TIMES

21 SEPT 2019

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

CHENNAI TIMES

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2019

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CHENNAI TIMES

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2019

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.



CHENNAI TIMES  
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

**ART**  
**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, at 6.30pm, tomorrow.

CHENNAI TIMES  
THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

**ART**  
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CHENNAI TIMES  
TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

**EVENTS**

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CHENNAI TIMES  
WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Chennai Biennale 2019 - Beyond The Frame:** The fourth edition of the Chennai Biennale presents a focused collection of 120 contemporary artworks from Korea. Several artists from Korea will be present at the inauguration to introduce their work, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

CHENNAI TIMES  
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2019

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CHENNAI TIMES  
THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

**EVENTS**

**Chennai Biennale 2019 - Beyond The Frame:** The fourth edition of the Chennai Biennale presents a focused collection of 120 contemporary artworks from Korea. Several artists from Korea will be present at the inauguration to introduce their work, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

CHENNAI TIMES  
SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Beyond the Frame:** The Chennai Biennale 2019 is the fourth in a series of bi-annual exhibitions that showcases the variety of contemporary paintings from Korea, at Lalit Kala Akademi, 4, Greams Road, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights, from 11am to 7pm, till October 1.

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# TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

## CHENNAI BIENNALE KICKS OFF

© Sankar Kumar



**TRIAL, INDIA:** The fourth edition of Chennai Biennale presented by InHo Centre with K-Art International Exchange Association, Korea, was on Thursday launched at Lalit Kala Akademi on Green Road. 'Beyond the Frame' features works by both emerging and established artists and highlights their techniques of interpreting the Korean cityscape, villages, beaches, farms and farms. It will be on till October 1

## A peep into Korean lives through artworks

Times News Network

Chennai

Chennai: Close to 100 contemporary artists from Korea have begun displaying their works at the fourth edition of the Chennai Biennale, presented by InHo Centre Chennai, in collaboration with K-Art International Exchange Association, Korea. Titled 'Beyond the Frame', the biennale which was inaugurated by senior Buddhist monk and co-president of Korea-India Cultural Exchange Subal Sankar,



**IN TRIALL:** Visitors at the exhibition on Thursday

"Subal Sankar is the abbot of the Jogye Order of Buddhism, which is closely linked to Chennai, going back all the way to Buddhahara, who went from this coast to spread Buddhism in China, Mongolia and Korea. He has also been working to encourage young and established artists to have vital links between the two countries," said Ravi Jaisri, director of InHo Centre.

"More than 100 works and 50 artists have visited Chennai over the last four years through this initiative," she said.

The show features work by both emerging and established artists and highlights their unique techniques of interpreting the Korean cityscape, villages, be-

aches, farms and farms. It also features the use of materials such as Korean paper and dyed silk, giving a peek into the artist's medium and traditions of the region.

Eight participating artists were present at the inauguration, guiding visitors through their work and styles. Park-Hee Nui, who uses mixed media on canvas, explores her fascination for pet animals by interpreting them as engaging in human-like activities such as going to the library, dining and celebrating.

"I've always wondered how it would be if our pets could do the things we did. For many of us they're like family so this thought guides most of my work," she

said. Son, Young-Sook, whose oil painting has been featured at the Biennale, loves showing the beachside, and how the shores often turn sparkling treasures.

"I believe such exchanges make Korean and Indian artists come closer and appreciate each others' cultures. We go a long back in history, the city of Ayodhya is also the birthplace of princess Han Shung-ah who married a Korean king. It is also the land of Buddhahara," said Subal Sankar.

Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS-Group and Goodwill Embroidery of the Republic of Korea, released a catalogue of the show.

The exhibition is on till October 1, from 11am to 5pm, at Lalit Kala Akademi, Green Road.