

CULTURE

TREND & LIVING



Kukje Gallery has been holding design exhibitions since 2005, and this year's is dedicated to French furniture designer Jean Royère (1902-1981). He is famous for his plush fabrics, bold colors and dramatic curves.

Provided by the gallery

The art of furniture: Exhibits to help you redesign your space

By Sung So-young

Furniture pieces have increasingly been crossing the threshold of museums and galleries over the past few years in Korea. And it seems like this is the month of such exhibitions, with three galleries in Seoul full of the works of famed furniture designers.

For those who are want to steal some ideas for their living rooms or if you'd like to take a peek at rare furniture from the '50s and '60s, these are three exhibitions you should head for.

Kukje Gallery — Nice curves

Kukje Gallery has been hosting design exhibitions every year since 2005; this month the gallery is devoting itself to French furniture designer Jean Royère (1902-1981).

Famous for his use of a wide range of fabrics from velvet to wool, many of which were considered innovative during his time, Royère's curvy works leave visitors surprised to hear that many were made nearly 60 years ago.

Royère used bold, bright colors and dramatic lines. A wander around the exhibit makes you want to curl up on one of the invitingly plush pieces, but you'll have to restrain yourself. Unlike some design exhibitions that allow guests to sit back and enjoy selected items, that's not allowed at this show.

"Most of the furniture was produced in the '50s and '60s, so it's pretty weak," says Jeon Min-kyeong, who is promoting the exhibition.

Of Royère's many pieces, his "Ours Polaire" (Polar Bear) series is the most famous. The exhibition is put together much like a furniture showroom and is a must-visit for design-savvy folks looking to spruce up their own living spaces.

The gallery is located in Samcheong-dong, central Seoul. The exhibition runs through March 31. Operation hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays and national holidays.



Salon de H Gallery combines vintage furniture with contemporary art. Here, works of Julian Opie hang on the wall.

Admission is free. For more information, visit www.kukje.org or call (02) 735-8449.

Salon de H — Modern vintage

Works by young British artists such as Julian Opie, Marc Quinn and Michael Craig-Martin are on display along with minimalistic European vintage furniture at Salon de H Gallery in "The Collection."

"A majority of Korean art collectors are taking an interest in vintage furniture that was produced in the '50s and '60s these days," says Son Ha-yeong, a curator of the exhibition. "So we wanted to suggest ways of coordinating contemporary art pieces and vintage furniture in their living rooms," Son adds.

As you make your way around the exhibit, it is interesting to see how the different pieces and different time periods can work together.

Opie is famous for simplifying his objects with neutral lines, while Quinn's photos of surreal and flamboyant flowers evoke eerie feelings. Craig-Martin's drawings look like sketches you might find in a trendy coffee shop.

Despite all the different characteristics, these pieces do come together to create a certain harmony.

The vintage furniture includes some pieces by George Nakashima (1905-1990), a famed Japanese-American architect and furniture designer.

The exhibition runs through April 12. The gallery is located in Cheongdam-dong, southern Seoul and it's open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, it closes at 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge. For more information, visit www.salondeh.com or call (02) 546-0853.

Choi Jung Ah Gallery — The Danish Golden Age

"Re.New" at Choi Jung Ah Gallery is an exhibition dedicated to three different arts—furniture, drawing and ceramics.

The exhibition starts with Danish furniture that is functional and aesthetically pleasing and shows how Danish design maintains its luster after decades.

With modern versions of Korean ceramics and *sumukhwa* (traditional

ink wash paintings), the exhibition also shows how Danish design and Korean art are both rooted in the same spirit of simplicity and functional beauty.

The furniture in the display comes from five Danish designers: Arne Jacobsen (1902-1971), Hans Wegner (1914-2007), Finn Juhl (1912-1989), Niels O. Møller (1920-1982) and Peter Hvidt (1916-1986).

These five began the golden age of Danish furniture design after World War II, and their influence still resonates in contemporary furniture design.

For instance, the Juhl's works inspired the founding of IKEA, the Swedish furniture company that is beloved around the world.

Because of this, the pieces on display look familiar even to those with little knowledge about furniture.

The gallery is located near Hongik University in western Seoul. The exhibition runs through March 31 and operation hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays. Admission is free of charge. For more information visit www.jagallery.co.kr or call (02) 540-5584.

so@joongang.co.kr



Arne Jacobsen's Swan Chair (1958) is part of Choi Jung Ah Gallery's exhibition "Re.New," which features works from the golden age of Danish furniture.

HOTEL EVENTS

The Westin Chosun Seoul

The hotel's Renewal Suite by architect Choi Si-young has been recognized for its Korean design by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. It's one of three suites that were created in 2010 in the traditional style. Furnishings and decor items were designed by a top Korean interior designer. The culture ministry officials who pick such buildings noted the use of wood, stones and paper in the Renewal Suite. Westin Chosun Seoul: (02) 317-0404 Sogong-dong, central Seoul www.echosunhotel.com/main.action

The Plaza Hotel Seoul

Through April 30: The hotel's restaurants are having weekend specials. The culture ministry officials at Taoyuen (Chinese), Murasaki (Japanese) and Tuscani (Italian) include seasonal seafood or

tenderloin steak.

The menus are priced at 68,000 won (\$60.92) per person including taxes and service charges. In March and April, two diners can get a 20 percent discount, and in a group of three, one person eats for free. Taoyuen's weekend special features Beijing duck, seafood rice crust soup and Guangdong shrimp with lemon. Musasaki's specials are seasonal sashimi, grilled fish, a sushi set and a seafood pot. Tuscani's specials include an amuse bouche, shrimp ratatouille and rack of lamb. The Plaza Hotel Seoul: (02) 310-7710 Sogong-dong, central Seoul www.hoteltheplaza.com

The Grand Hilton Seoul

Through May 15: In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the hotel is holding a prize

giveaway. Every guest who uses any of the hotel's restaurants or rooms is eligible. Winners will be selected by lucky draw and prizes include a Renault Samsung SM7 European Prestige Sedan, flights to European destinations, overnight accommodation vouchers at Hilton hotels and Nespresso coffee machines. The winners will be announced on the Grand Hilton Seoul's Web page after May 16. Grand Hilton Seoul: (02) 2287-8080 Hongseung-dong, northern Seoul www.grandhiltonseoul.com



Sheraton Grande Walkerhill
From April 5: The hotel will begin celebrating its 50th anniversary on April 5. The festivities will begin with the "2013 Culinary Evolution," which will feature food made exclusively with local ingredients.

The young chefs from the hotel's European, and Korean restaurants as well as its patisseries and more will participate, competing to create their own innovative recipes with domestic ingredients.

The competition will begin on April 5 at 9 a.m. at the hotel's Art Hall. Sheraton Grande Walkerhill: (02) 455-5000 Walkerhill-ro, eastern Seoul www.sheratonwalkerhill.co.kr

Oakwood Premier Coex Center

Through April 14: Oakwood Premier Coex Center has spring specials in its Residents' Lounge. Korean pancakes called jeon will be served with seasonal greens like watercress, shrimps and spring onions. A variety of stews will be served with ingredients such as fish, beef, dumplings and snails. Prices start from 15,000 won including taxes and service charges. Oakwood Premier Coex Center Seoul: (02) 3466-7277 Samsong-dong, southern Seoul www.oakwoodpremier.co.kr

Millennium Seoul Hilton

The hotel's delicatessen, Cilantro Deli, and Japanese restaurant Genji is offering gourmet selections that you can take with you. You can choose from an array of sandwiches including club, salmon, vegetable, four salad, along with breads and individual desserts at the Cilantro Deli. Sandwich prices start from 7,500 won and salads from 14,000 won. Genji offers more upscale options. The lunch boxes feature sushi; prices start from 73,000 won. Millennium Seoul Hilton: (02) 317-3060. Namdaemun-ro, central Seoul www.hilton.co.kr

Grand Hyatt Seoul

Today to March 31: The Chinese Restaurant at the hotel will be hosting guest Chef Lo Kwai Kai from the Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Tsim Sha Tsui. The chef, who has over 30 years of culinary experience, will prepare a range of Chinese

dishes, including

steamed cod fillet, Shanghai-style stir-fried shrimp with preserved salted eggs. Prices range from 14,300 won to 58,300 won including taxes and service charges. Grand Hyatt Seoul: (02) 799-8163 Hannam-dong, central Seoul seoul.grand.hyattrestaurants.com

JW Marriott Hotel Seoul

Ongoing: The JW Marriott Hotel Seoul presents a promotion called "Dad, Where Are We Going?" through which children can spend time with their fathers while mothers are able to soak in the spa. JW Marriott Hotel Seoul: (02) 6282-6282 Banpo-dong, southern Seoul www.jw-marriott.co.kr

* All information is culled from hotels.