

Press Information



Open call: First Austrian Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale 2024 in South Korea

Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art is accepting proposals through an open call for the Austrian Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale in 2024

The Gwangju Biennale in South Korea is among the most important biennials for contemporary art in Asia, attracting roughly 500,000 guests per edition. It was created in 1995 as a tribute to the Gwangju Democratisation Movement violently suppressed by military dictatorship in 1980.

Since 2018, the Gwangju Biennale has hosted national pavilions and satellite exhibitions by international art institutions at cultural venues across the city alongside the main exhibition. The 15th Gwangju Biennale in 2024 will mark the first official participation of Austria in a national pavilion hosted by the LEEKANGHA Art Museum.

The project is commissioned by Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art and jointly funded with a grant from the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport.

'The Gwangju Biennale in South Korea has developed into the most important exhibition of its kind in the Asian region over the past three decades. As a result, the national pavilions provide an excellent opportunity to showcase contemporary art from other regions. On the initiative of Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art and with the support of the Federal Government, an Austrian contribution, for the first time, will now feature at the 15th Gwangju Biennale, adding to the current international discourse. I'm eagerly anticipating the many exciting project competition submissions for the realization of the Austrian Pavilion,' says State Secretary for Art and Culture Andrea Mayer.

'We have been providing significant support for the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale since 2015 and have formed long-term partnerships with biennials across the world. We are therefore all the more pleased to be able to realise the first Austrian Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale and to strengthen the presence in Asia of contemporary artists from Austria,' says Margherita Belcredi, Deputy Director of Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art.

Open call

Submission deadline: 15 October 2023

As part of the open call, curatorial concepts for the realisation of the Austrian Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale can be submitted until 15 October 2023. The 15th Gwangju Biennale, titled *Pansori – a soundscape of the 21st century*, will be curated by French curator Nicolas Bourriaud and will take place between September and November 2024. The Austrian contribution will be chosen independently of the general theme of the Biennale but should ideally reference the central theme of the main exhibition. In addition to newly developed and produced projects, previously realised projects will also be considered in the context of a new presentation. Submissions should include a detailed artistic concept, ideas for an education programme, and a sustainability proposal that prioritises climate protection and resource conservation during the planning and execution of the Austrian contribution.

The LEEKANGHA Art Museum

The Austrian Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale will be hosted by the LEEKANGHA Art Museum. Located in the Yangnim district, the cultural centre features an exhibition space of approximately 160 m² at ground level.

www.lkh-artmuseum.com

Selection process

Submitted projects will be assessed in a two-stage process by a panel of national and international experts. During the first round, a shortlist of projects will be selected. The winning project, curator and artist will be chosen in the second round. The winning project will be publicly announced on 21 November 2023.

The open call documents and eligibility requirements are available on the website of Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art:

www.phileas.art/gwangjubiennale

Contacts

Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art

Press contact

Catharina Cramer

press@phileas.art

+43 660 397 3514

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Margherita Belcredi

Deputy Director & International Relations

gwangjubiennale@phileas.art

+43 676 570 54 30

About Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art

Phileas supports artists, curators, galleries and institutions in Austria and aims to strengthen their presence internationally. Phileas was founded in Vienna in 2014 as an independent philanthropic organisation funded by contributions from private members. In 2023, we partnered with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts and Culture to create a new organisation named Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art. By pooling our expertise and combining public and private resources, we will provide even greater support to artists and institutions and help strengthen Austria's position in the international landscape of contemporary art.

www.phileas.art

About the 15th Gwangju Biennale

French curator Nicolas Bourriaud will curate the 15th Gwangju Biennale in 2024 under the title *Pansori – a soundscape of the 21st century*. Built as a narrative, the Biennale tells of the spaces we live in. Bourriaud draws on the Korean *pansori* tradition: a lyrical or epic chant by a single artist accompanied by a drum. *Pansori – a soundscape of the 21st century* presents itself as a visual symphony composed by international artists at various locations in Gwangju. For the duration of the Biennale, the city will be orchestrated with *madangs*, 'individual songs' of *pansori*, as musical or sonic projects that mix sound and visual elements. 'From social distancing due to the pandemic to climate change, including flooding, desertification and rising sea levels due to global warming, humanity's relationship with space has changed dramatically over the past few years.' (Nicolas Bourriaud)

www.gwangjubiennale.org/en/index.do

www.gwangjubiennale.org/en/exhibition/biennale/pavilion.do