

# Gyubang:

exploring the  
aesthetic value of  
Korean  
handicrafts

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Mon - Sat 11am - 6pm

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Han Collection

# Gyubang: exploring the aesthetic value of Korean handicrafts

It is the first exhibition to introduce the Korean boudoir craft in London through the Han Collection. Gyubang (규방) means “boudoir” in Korean, and it was the exclusive space for women in Korean traditional houses. During the Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), the conservative doctrine of Confucianism was the prevailing ideology and it completely restricted the outdoor activity of women. Girls were educated the virtue of daughterhood, wifehood, and motherhood, and the society only allows them to take the primary roles designated at home. Under the Confucian social restriction, Gyubang was the only space for women to develop their creativity and artistic talent. Korean boudoir craft contains the various skills such as Ja-su (embroidery) and Jogakbo (patchwork). Ja-su was considered as the method of cultivating beauty in everyday life and it also used to represent the status of ruling class with the decoration on clothes and flags. Confucianism of Joseon dynasty emphasized the frugality and simplicity, and it spread into the society. Creating Jogakbo with the scraps of left-over fabrics indicated the frugality of Confucius idea, and it showed artistic abilities of Korean women. Small needles and homespun silk threads of Gyubang craft were the medium to express the creativity of women against to the social oppression. With the cultural and historical aspects of the Joseon dynasty, the harmony of colours of Korean boudoir craft represents not only the delicacy of Gyubang handicrafts but also it symbolises the freedom of artistic expression of Korean women.



Han Collection's 'Gyubang: exploring the aesthetic value of Korean handicrafts' is the exhibition focused on promoting the aesthetic value of the traditional Korean Gyubang craft. This show is planned to exhibit the Korean boudoir antiques, such as Norigae (trinketry), Bi-nyeo (ornamental hairpin). Jogakbo and other Gyubang craftworks, moreover, made by contemporary Korean artists will be exhibited along with the antiques. Other forms of Korean antiques, for instance, Ban-daji (wooden chest), Baek-ja (Korean white porcelain), Min-hwa (folk painting) and Na-jeon-chil-gi (lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl), which were significantly related to the Gyubang culture, will decorate the exhibition space with other artworks. This exhibition aims to represent the combination of traditional antiques and contemporary artworks, and it will be the great opportunity to encounter the Korean Gyubang culture.



**Jogakbo Curtain**

by Ja-kyung Kim

2017, silk plain weave; pieced and hand sewn, 178x56cm

**Holding the Cord of Faint Memory**

by Choel-ok Baek

2016, silk plain weave; pieced and hand sewn, 112x109cm





## Two Metal Hairpins

비녀

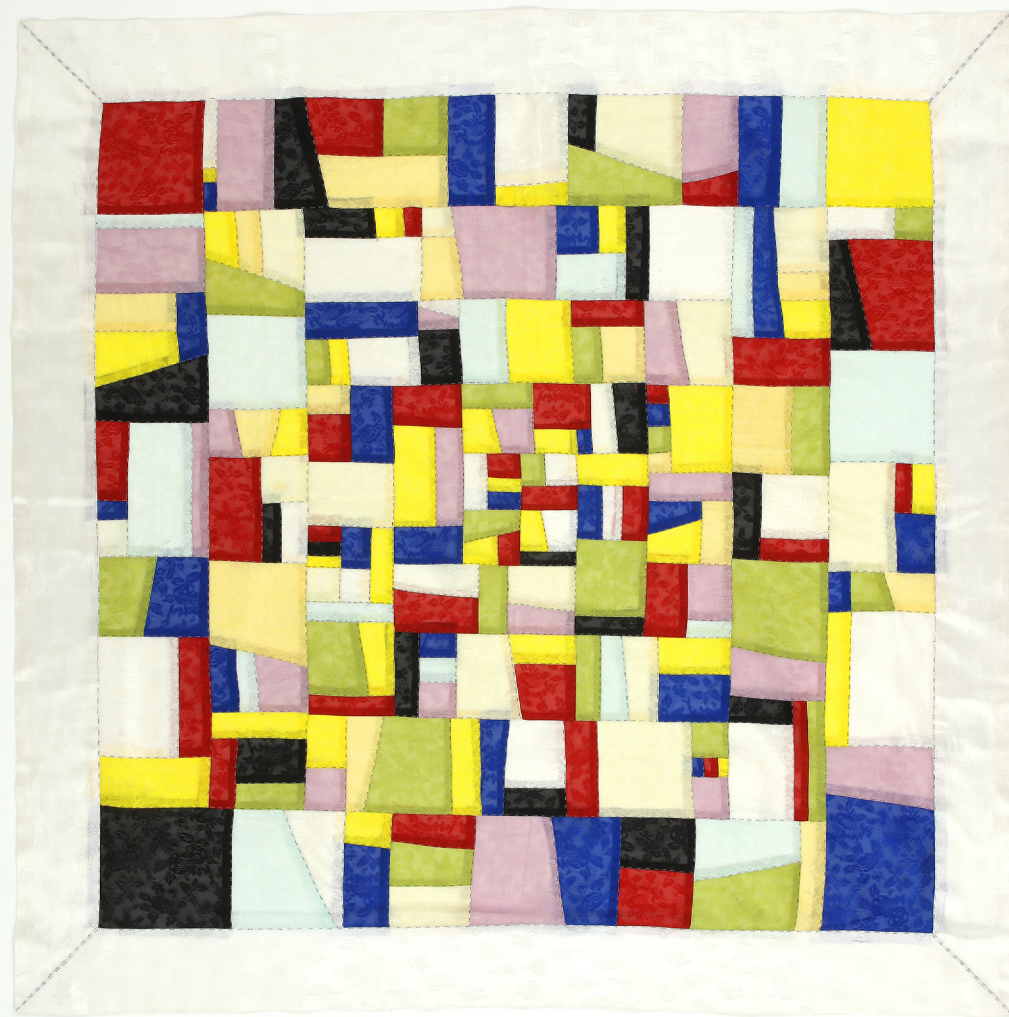
Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: metal and coral / Dimensions: L:18cm, L:15cm

The hairpin was the essential ornament for Korean women, and it was considered as one of the major symbols to indicate the social rank under the Confucian doctrine of Joseon dynasty. The two hairpins have a slim and cylindrical form with the elegantly decorated terminal. One shows brightly enamelled filigree and repousse bird designs and there are two coral-glass beads along with two birds. Another one is decorated with the dragon head, and it represents this hairpin used by upper-class women.

**Good Day**  
by Sang-im Yun

2017, leno cloth weave; pieced and hand sewn, 106x108cm





**Road of Wind**

by Mi-ae Park

2017, dupioni weave; pieced and hand sewn, 144x68cm

### Tobacco Stone Box

석제연초함

Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 17th-19th century

Materials: agalmatolite / Dimensions: W:11.5cm H:10cm D:4.7cm

Since the end of Japanese Invasion of Korea (1592-1598), tobacco started to import from Japan to Korea. Smoking was loved by Joseon scholars as the hobby, and tobacco became the popular item. The inside of the box is divided two rectangular hollow space, and it represents that the main function of this stone box was storing the tobacco. The lid of the box is immensely thin compared to the thickness of the whole body of the box. The abstract brownish patterns and the balanced organisation of this stone box showed the sense of stability.







### Hairpin with Fluttering Ornaments

떨잠

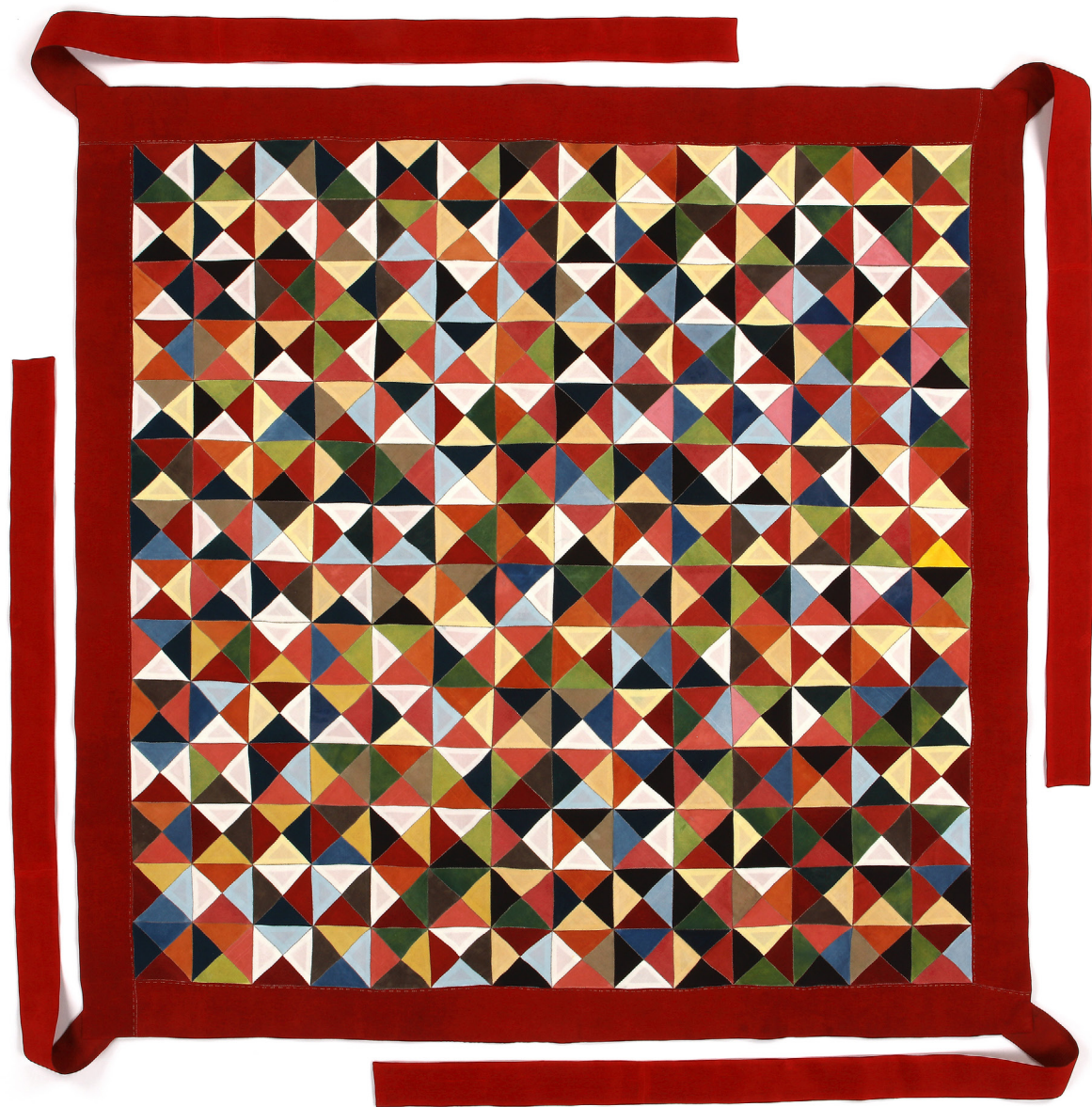
Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: silver, coral and jade / Dimensions: L:12cm W:8cm

This hairpin was the special ornament for the ceremonial wig of women, and it only used by noblewomen including the queen. Ornamental hairpins introduced by China during the Ming period (1368-1644) and it became slowly unused since Japan-Korea Treaty of 1876. The ornamental hairpins, generally, was put one in the middle of the wig and two on both sides of the wig. There are various styles of cloisonne decorations, such as butterfly, flowers and jades, joined with the thin silver springs and they attached to the carved jade plate. The fluttering ornaments of hairpin vibrate when the wig wearer moves, and they give the sense of rhythm. dragon head, and it represents this hairpin used by upper-class women.

**Dyed Old Bojagi with Red Leaves**  
by Yung-ae Yi

2017, silk plain weave; pieced and hand sewn, 116x116cm





**Autumn Foliage**

by Do-kyung Shin

2016, dupioni weave; pieced and hand sewn, 118x118cm

### Pendant with Three Silver Ornaments

#### 칠보삼작노리개

Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: cloisonné work and silver with silk / Dimensions: L:36cm

Korean pendant (norigae) is a traditional Korean accessory hung with woman's coat and skirt strings. Korean pendant has various shapes depends on the number of norigae strings and the size of ornaments. The norigae was considered as the charm to symbolized good-luck, such as wealth and longevity, but it used for fashion accessory of Korean women in general. The two norigae are defined as sosamjaks due to the three strings of the pendants and the small size of ornaments. One has three cloisonné ornaments that a couple of mythical lions (haetae), silver ornamental knife and utensils, and they are bound by the butterfly ornament. Another norigae decorated with coral, two cloisonné butterflies and amber with carved ornamental jade.

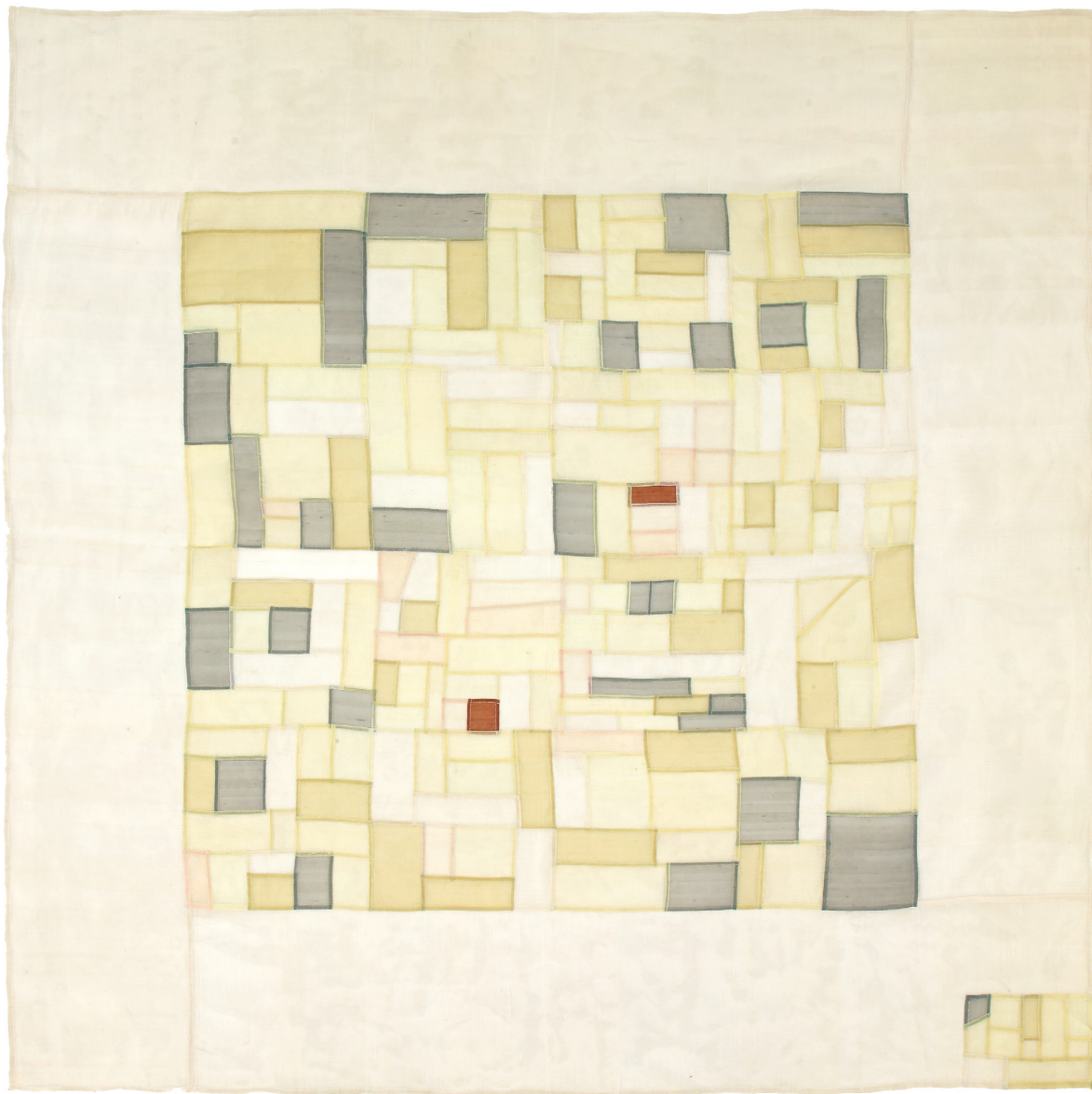
### Pendant with Three Ornaments

#### 삼작노리개

Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: amber, coral, silver and jade with silk / Dimensions: L:40cm





**Heart**

by Do-kyung Shin

2017, silk plain weave; pieced and hand sewn, 118x118cm

**Maze**

by Do-kyung Shin

2016, ramie fabric weave; pieced and hand sewn, 146x112cm





### Lacquer box inlaid with Mother of Pearl

나전칠당초문함

Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: lacquered wood, mother-of-pearl inlay and brass fitting

Dimensions: W:38cm H:18.5cm D:20.5cm

This striking box from the 19th century revives a number of typical stylistic features of the early and mid-Joseon Dynasty. The two peonies inlaid top and front are vividly rendered in full bloom, surrounded by buds and tendrils. Twisted brass wires are used to link up the blooms to form a neat plant. Not only are the individual decorative units a great deal larger and bolder, but the decor still leaves some blank areas, allowing the individual motifs to stand out to much better effect and creating a feeling of greater overall generosity.

### **Black Lacquered Mirror Box with Mother-of-Pearl Inlay**

나전해포문경대

Joseon dynasty (1392-1897), 19th century

Materials: lacquered wood, mother-of-pearl inlay and brass fitting

Dimensions: W:28cm H:21cm D:13cm

Mirror box was a necessary item for women in Joseon dynasty. It had been produced from the late 18th century when the mirror glass imported from China and Japan to Korea. This black lacquered mirror box is decorated with mother-of-pearl inlay, and a hinged mirror is attached underneath of the box lid. There is a functional drawer to keep cosmetic accessories, and it is decorated with a small handle with the Chinese character that symbolizes the fortune. The left and right sides of the box represent the blooming peonies reminiscent of the literati Korean ink painting. The inlaid decoration of the other sides of mirror box indicates the sea foam (Haepo-moon). The geometric and mystic pattern of Haepo-moon is perfectly harmonised with peony decoration of this mirror box. balanced organisation of this stone box showed the sense of stability.







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### Antique and Art Advisory

Han Collection is pleased offer antique and art advisory and appraisal service to both individual and corporate clients. Site visits to homes and offices can be arranged, and we are happy to work with clients to provide antique and art which reflects personal taste or captures the ethos of a museum and gallery or private company. With our experience and speciality on Korean antiques and arts, Han Collection is able to source a wide range of Korean antiques and arts for every situation.

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