

LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACMA APPOINTS DR. VIRGINIA MOON AS ASSISTANT CURATOR OF KOREAN ART

(Los Angeles—May 7, 2013) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Virginia Moon as Assistant Curator of Korean Art.

Virginia Moon received her BA in art history from Yale University, her Master's Degree in East Asian Studies from Harvard University, and her PhD in art history from the University of Southern California (2010). Her PhD dissertation, written under the direction of Professor Insoo Cho (now of Korea National University of Arts in Seoul), was a study of the system of designating Korean National Treasures (*The Grafting of a Canon: The Politics of Korea's National Treasures and the Formation of an Art History*). She is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of California, Riverside and will assume her new position at LACMA on August 16, 2013.

Dr. Moon's appointment comes at a moment of enormous forward momentum in Korean art and culture at LACMA. The permanent galleries of Korean art, which opened in 2009, will undergo a major renovation and re-installation in the summer of 2013, funded by a generous grant from the National Museum of Korea. The same grant is funding a series of loans to LACMA of Korean art treasures from the National Museum in Seoul; the current loans (on view through July 28) include two masterpieces of Korean landscape painting and a rare blue-and-white porcelain jar, all dating to the mid-Joseon dynasty (1392-1910). In addition, in the summer of 2014, LACMA will host a major exhibition from the National Museum of Korea, *The Art of the Joseon Dynasty, 1392-1910*—a groundbreaking survey of art from Korea's last royal dynasty.

Newly on view in the Korean galleries is a magnificent and rare cast iron seated Buddha dating to the early Goryeo dynasty (10th century), acquired

in April at LACMA's 2013 Collectors Committee. This comes on the heels of the 2012 acquisition of *Orchids and Rocks* by Kim Eung-won (1855-1921), a prominent teacher at the Academy of Painting and Calligraphy (Sohwa Misulhoe Kangsopso) established in 1910 to ensure the preservation of Korea's painting traditions; this acquisition was generously funded by LACMA's East Asian Art Council.

Stephen Little, Curator and Head of the Chinese and Korean Art Department, stated, "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Moon to LACMA. She comes highly recommended by leading scholars in Korea and the United States and will play a key role in the development of our permanent collection, exhibitions, and public programs focused on both traditional and contemporary Korean art and culture."

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography-and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, and innovative collaborations with artists, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

About LACMA's Korean Art Galleries

LACMA's Korean Art Galleries have been made possible by the generous support of: Amore Pacific Corporation; The Korea Foundation; *The Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo*; Korean Air; the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea; Mrs. Hyun Joo Chang and Mr. Jae Min Chang; Ms. Hyon Chough; Mr. Daewon Kwon and Mrs. Chong Ja Kwon; Dr. David Y. Lee and Dr. Miki M. Nam; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Han; and Mr. Tony Park.

Location and Contact: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11 am-5 pm; Friday: 11 am-8 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 10 am-7 pm; closed Wednesday

General Admission: Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

Free General Admission: Members; children 17 and under; after 3 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

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