Korean Treasures from the Chester and Cameron Chang Collection is a selection of works drawn from the largest gift of Korean art in the museum’s history. In 2021, the museum announced the acquisition of an initial major gift of 100 works of Asian art from Dr. Chester Chang and Dr. Cameron C. Chang (MD). The collection consists primarily of Korean paintings, calligraphy, sculpture, ceramics, lacquers, furniture, and other works of art ranging in date from the Three Kingdoms Period (c. 57 BCE–668 CE) to the 20th century. The bulk of the works in this collection has remained within a single family for a century and has never publicly been on view. Organized chronologically and by material, this exhibition presents 35 donated and promised gifts, including traditional Korean secular and religious paintings, calligraphies, rare mid-20th-century oil paintings from both North and South Korea, and ceramics of the Goryeo (918–1392) and Joseon (1392–1897) dynasties.

Chester Chang (Chang Jung Ki), a former LACMA trustee, was born in Seoul in 1939; he and his son Cameron are descended, through Chester’s mother, Min Byeongyoon, from the family of Queen Min (1851–1895), the last queen of the Joseon dynasty (known posthumously as Empress Myeongseong).

Korean Treasures from the Chester and Cameron Chang Collection is curated by Stephen Little, Florence and Harry Sloan Curator of Chinese Art and Department Head, Chinese, Korean, and South and Southeast Asian Art.
This exhibition reflects LACMA's role as a national leader in presenting exhibitions and scholarship of Korean art in the United States. Recent examples include Beyond Line: The Art of Korean Writing (2018), focused on the history of calligraphy in Korea, and The Space Between: The Modern in Korean Art (2022), a survey of Korean art created between 1890 and 1970. Both exhibitions were the first of their kind to be presented in the United States. Works from the Chang Collection will empower curators and scholars alike to refine and expand their understanding of these Korean objects and the contexts in which they were created. Korean art history is a relatively new field of academic study in the United States, and LACMA's collection can serve as a foundation for future research, exhibitions, and public programs, especially as the field evolves.

Credit
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About LACMA
Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 152,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

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