

## Int'l craft biennale underway in Cheongju

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CHEONGJU, South Korea, Sept. 15 (Yonhap) -- A month long international craft biennale is underway in the South Korean city of Cheongju, featuring some 4,000 works of 780 teams from 16 nations.

South Korean composer Younggi Pagh-Paan's tribute song "My Mind" was played at the opening ceremony of the 2017 Cheongju Craft Biennale, which kicked off Wednesday and will run until Oct. 22. She wrote the song by drawing inspiration from a work of 16th-century Korean poet Jeong Cheol.

In the Global Pavilion, leading Korean composers and performance artists threw a special performance combining songs, plays, mime, traditional and contemporary dances and calligraphy.

Renowned composer Choi Myung-whun's song "Contorted Wavelength" was rendered at the German Hall; dancers Cho Seong-jin and Yang Kil-ho performed a mime at the Finnish and Singaporean Halls; and traditional dancer Kim Pyeong-ho performed at the British Hall.

Dancers Koo Seo-young and Ryu Myeong-ok showed contemporary dance at the Swiss and Mongolian Halls, while classical concerts were held at the Korean and Japanese Halls.

In a special exhibition, Chinese artist Wu Jian'an displayed his work "Cheongju, 500 Brush Strokes" made of paper on which visitors drew lines with brushes.

"We've tried to make this year's biennale easier and more interesting to visitors. It'll be a place in which the world becomes one with craft," Cheongju Mayor Lee Sung-hoon said in an opening speech.

The opening ceremony was also attended by governors, culture minister and Danish and Swiss ambassadors.

The biennale, the 10th of its kind, presents exhibitions, symposiums and workshops under the theme of "Hands Plus Embrace."

The main exhibition, "Re-Craft," is comprised of 669 digital craft works, including internationally recognized American sculptor Janet Echelman's "Line Travelling Through Space and Time" and British artist David Ogle's "Loomings."