

“O Colourful Korea!”

**“Seoul Markets” Exhibition by Australian Artist Robert Liddicoat
“Korea’s landscape is a feast of colour”**

Korea is a country of colour. I am inspired by the array of bright, primary colours which unfold before me. Particularly , Korea’s marketplaces are a feast of colours, bustling with life.

Australian artist Robert Liddicoat (67), whose exhibition “Seoul Markets” opens on 15 June and will run for two weeks at Le Saint-Ex in Itaewon, Yongsan, Seoul, has completely fallen for Korea’s colours. For him, the splash of colours that Koreans consider rustic, are the object of his fascination and admiration.

His canvases feature common scenes from the Namdaemun markets and the vegetable market foreigners call “Veggie Hill”, nearby in Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu. But the landscape which has caught his eye is dreamy and fantastic. The colourful array of vegetables, fruit, and flowers swirl into one with the market signs, shop keepers and their clothes. He seems to have a special prism in his eye.

“I am especially interested in complementary colours. Complementary colours red and green, yellow and blue, confront each other. When these colours are arranged together, the effect is so strong that it leaves an impression on the retina. Korea’s landscape is just like that, a feast of complimentary colour.”

Robert first came to Korea in autumn 2001, to see his eldest daughter Mary-Jane Liddicoat (38) who had taken up a new posting as First Secretary at the Australian Embassy.

“I have visited many countries in Europe and the Middle East, but I had never seen colours as beautiful as those I saw during that first autumn in Korea.”

He stayed for four months in Korea to fill his canvases with images of his trips to Mt Ode and Mr Sorak, and to hold his first exhibition at Insa-dong in Seoul. Since then, he has continued painting in Australia, working from his photographic record of Korea’s landscapes. This is Robert’s third exhibition in Korea.

This visit has also a special significance. In early July, his eldest daughter and her husband (Jinho Choi, 34, sculptor) will give birth to Robert’s first grandchild.

by Kwon Jae-Hyeon
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