

2nd Kwangju Biennale to 'Unmap the Earth'

— Commissioners Including Three Foreign Curators Named —

By Cho Sang-hee
Staff Reporter

The Kwangju Biennale, a feast of contemporary art that was inaugurated last year and drew more than one million visitors to the city of the traumatic 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators, will be held for the second time from Sept. 1 to Nov. 27, next year and its subject will be a recultivating of established global aesthetics and cultural visions.

Taking as its title, "Unmapping the Earth," the main exhibition will be divided into five categories commissioned by a dozen art experts. The five head commissioners, three of whom will be foreign curators, have been named already, according to the organizer of the biennale.

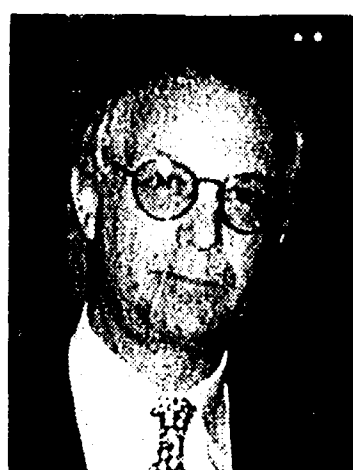
The foreign curatorial commissioners are Harald Szeemann of Switzerland, Richard Koshalek of the United States and Bernard Marcade of France. The Korean commissioners are Sung Wanyung, mural painter and art theoretician at Inha University, and Park Kyong, a Korean-born architect and founder-director of StoreFront for Art and Architecture in New York.

Unlike the first biennale that had the theme "Beyond Borders" but whose entries were selected by continent, the second next year will take place without differentiating the artists by region or national background. Instead, the entries will be divided in the five thematic subjects, according to the organizer.

The five representative subtitles will be: "Speed," "Hybridity," "Space," "Power" and "Becoming." Szeemann will be responsible for making up the "Speed" section featuring a fast-phase changing world, while Park will show how artistic space can be created in



Harald Szeemann



Richard Koshalek



Bernard Marcade

contemporary art.

Some 75-80 artists will be selected from the global pool with each commissioner having a say in inviting 15 or more artists. The organizer said about a dozen Korean artists will participate in the event held at the capital of the southwestern province.

The biennale will take place at Chungwoe Park in the city, which has been named "Biennale Park" since Korea's first international event for contemporary was held there by the Kwangju city government with the support of the central government last year.

However, a curtain raiser to the biennial event will be an artists rally and exhibitions at the cemetery in Mangwol-dong, the burial site of the victims of the army crackdown on the Kwangju protestors, said a member of the organizing committee.

Kang Yeon-gyun, director of the Kwangju City Art Museum, said it will not be a counter-event, or the so-called "anti-biennale" show as that of last year but a pre-event to advertise the official festival. Kang, a celebrated painter himself was the mastermind of the oppositionist exhibition at the

cemetery during the 1st Kwangju Biennale.

The organizer stressed the upcoming biennale will be "a fresh visual impact with contemporary art" emphasizing the semi-independent curatorship for each hall with its different features.

"This biennale is not simply to bring out a grand prize winner," said Yoo Jun-sang, chairman of the organizing committee. "The display of the individual artists' works in the various halls will be a creation by itself."

The organizer said some 30 to 50 percent of the invited artists will be high profile ones. They say name artists will be a factor making the event more attractive.

Reminding of the fate of the effort to resume the suspended Paris Biennale, an event for artists under 35, Yoo said the invitation of some senior artists to Kwangju will help the biennale avoid the redundancy of a young artists' festival.

Thus, a work of Joseph Beuys can be presented as part of a certain thematic presentation during the biennale though he is not a living artist.

The organizer believes the involvement in the biennale of such a world-famous personality as commissioner Szeemann will help promote it. Szeemann has curated more than 100 exhibitions and his shows usually travel through several cities across Europe. His major projects include "When Attitude Becomes Form" in 1969 and his latest "100 years of cinema." He has been appointed director of the 1997 Lyon Biennale.

Koshalek is director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. Marcade is an art critic and independent curator. He is professor of aesthetics at the National Art College L' Ecole Nationales d'Arts de Cergy-Pontoise. He managed the sensational exhibition "Feminin-masculin, le sexe de Part" with a sexual theme at Pompidou Center in Paris last year.

Meanwhile, the organizer of the Kwangju Biennale revealed that it has raised more than three quarters of the targeted 20 billion won for the permanent financing of the art festival.



Kwangju Mayor Song Eon-jong, left, and artist Kang Yeon-gyun, right, unveil a sign advertising the upcoming 2nd Kwangju Biennale in front of the Kwangju City Art Museum early this month.

Beatles Biggest Sellers in World...Since Beatles

LONDON (Reuters) — The Beatles have outsold every pop group in the world this year and sales of more than 20 million albums make them the most successful band since...The Beatles.

Three "Anthology" volumes of outtakes and live recordings shot to number one in the U.S. charts. The Guinness Book of Records had to rewrite its 1996 entry on the world's most famous group and will have to do so again next year.

"The Beatles in the last 12 months have sold more albums than they ever did in any one year in the Sixties," said Anthology publicist Geoff Baker.

"The Beatles have beaten the Beatles. That's not hype. It is true," he told Reuters as the third Anthology volume enjoys bumper sales in the run-up to

Christmas. It is the 18th number one Beatles album in the United States.

"It is interesting that three guys who stopped recording together in 1970 and one who tragically died in 1980 are now outselling every other artist on the planet," Baker said.

He quashed rumours, that Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr would get together for a "Three-ties" golden oldies reunion concert tour.

"That is absolutely not on. Paul said that the thought of anyone filling John's shoes was nonsense," Baker said. Lennon was shot dead outside his New York apartment in 1980.

The anthology albums have spawned a new generation of Beatle fans. The band's record label, Apple, says four out of every 10 Beatle albums sold this year have been bought by teenagers who were not even born when the group broke up.

The release of the Anthology albums has also boosted sales of the Beatles back catalogue, record executives say.

Gross record sales, TV rights and video sales will earn about 490 million pounds (\$780 million) this year with the lion's share going to British record company EMI.

Oasis, leaders of the 1990s British popular music revival, readily acknowledge that the Beatles are a major influence on them.

Baker had great admiration for Oasis but said their 1996 sales were less than half those achieved by the Beatles.

He said the surviving Beatles were "flattered and delighted" by the reception the albums have had.

"Paul always used to say he was pleased not about the fame and the legends but the songs. He and John hoped and intended they would last. They plainly have."

Egyptians Find Tombs of Six Pharaonic Princes

CAIRO (Reuters) — Egyptian archaeologists have found the tombs of six Old Kingdom princes at the Nile Delta site of Tell Basta, an ancient provincial capital best known for its mummified cat cemeteries.

The tombs contain parts of a human mummy and some of the gold foil from the case which covered it, the Supreme Council for Antiquities said in a statement on Monday.

Other finds include three offering tables, a fine head rest made of marble and three false doors, one of them inscribed with the name of Ithi, apparently one of the princes, it said. False doors are a traditional feature of Pharaonic burials.

Ithi had administrative and funerary titles well known from the Old Kingdom, which lasted from about 2,600 to 2,180 B.C.

The site, known in ancient times as Per Bastet after, the cat goddess Bastet, lies 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Cairo, near the modern town of Zagazig. The council said the archaeologists were a joint mission from the council and Zagazig University. They have been working at the site for four months.

"At Atelier" a watercolor featuring corn on a white cloth covered table, is one of the paintings of Nam Hye-sook exhibited at the artist's first solo show from Tuesday at Seoul Gallery (721-5968) in the Press Center in Seoul.



Dance, Fashion in Harmony on Stage

By Lee Hee-soon
Staff Reporter

The nation's leading dancer-choreographers are now teaming up with fashion designers for a special event titled "Encounter of Dance & Costume," a combined dance-fashion show.

Scheduled at the Munye Theater Nov. 23-24, the event will feature eight dance pieces in which performers will take the stage wearing designer costumes expected to express the theme of each work.

Many of the participating dancers and fashion designers are domestically well known.

The event will start Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with "Many-Colored Garment," choreographed by Kim Myong-suk, at the 700-seat theater in Tongsung-dong, downtown Seoul.

Kim Myong-sook is a traditional dancer outstanding in the "salpuri" folk dance who teaches at Ewha Womans University. Her dance work will bring four dancers on stage with costumes designed by Kim Jong-hee.

Also on that day's program will be three solo works — "The Widow of Butterfly," "Outing" and "Sacrificial Rite With the Moon" — performed by dancer-choreographers Park In-ja, Nam Jong-ho and Choi Hyun.

Park and Nam teach at Sookmyung Women's University and the Korean National Institute of Arts respectively. Choi Hyun is head of the World Dance Association (WDA)'s Korean chapter.

During their solo performances, designers Ohm Kyu-son, Hong Mi-hwa and Huh Young will present their creative unique fashion designs.

Four group dance works will be introduced the following day, including "Divertimento of Flower & Butterfly" choreographed by Kim Sun-hee, "Tou" (Clay Figurine) by Chong Kwi-in, "The Place Where I Can Go Anytime" by Kim So-ra, and "Ah! Koguryo" by Chong Jae-man. Designers providing a hand for the program are Park Hyon-shin, Kim Hye-yon, Lee Mi-hyon and Greta Lee.

The two-day event is being organized by the world



Nam Jong-ho wears a costume specially designed by fashion designer Hong Mi-hwa for her solo dance work "Outing." Nam is one of the leading dance artists to be featured in the "Encounter of Dance & Costume" special event.

dance body's Korean office (Tel: 362-5929 or 360-2575) under the auspices of the Culture-Sports Ministry and the Korean Culture & Arts Foundation.

'Evita' Promoters Want to Turn Movie Into Fashion Phenomenon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More than 40 years after her death, Eva Peron is about to spring back to life thanks to the efforts of two sales wizards — Madonna and Walt Disney.

When Disney's "Evita" starring one of the entertainment industry's best self-promoters opens in a few weeks, the selling of Argentina's legendary political figure will be an intense but strictly high-class affair.

Forget about the plastic drinking cups, T-shirts, action figures and lunchboxes that follow the release of a typical Hollywood blockbuster. Instead, the chic Bloomingdale's department store will be opening "Evita" boutiques stocked with movie-inspired jewelry, makeup, dresses and platform shoes.

Estee Lauder is jumping in with a line of 25 Evita cosmetic products, and renowned designers such as Salvatore Ferragamo and Victor Costa are creating Evita clothes, jewelry, scarves and gloves — some of which already have appeared, along with Madonna, on the covers of Vanity Fair and Vogue magazines.

"They wanted none of the obvious ties to fast-food chains and cheap souvenir

items," an "Evita" distributor told The Washington Post recently. "Madonna demanded that she approve every piece of merchandise."

"We're not even calling it merchandising," he added. "We're calling it a promotion of a musical opera."

"Evita" will spawn not only a soundtrack album but also a book about the making of the film penned by director Alan Parker as well as limited-edition posters.

Critics are already applauding the soundtrack, which features numbers by Madonna and co-star Antonio Banderas.

All this glitz might have upset Eva Peron, whose support in part came from unionized workers known as the "descamisados," or shirtless ones.

A militant champion of women, labor and the poor, she commanded an enormous following as wife of Argentine President Juan Peron in the late 1940s and early 1950s. She died in 1952 at age 33.

It has taken nearly 20 years for Hollywood to turn Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage musical into a 60-million-dollar production filmed in Argentina and Hungary with thousands of extras.

France's New TV Ratings System Sparks Debate

PARIS (AP) — French TV networks' launch of on-screen ratings for sex and violence in their programs Monday was mostly ridiculed and dismissed by media critics and viewers.

The leftist daily Liberation said it was "bizarre" that only fiction will be affected by the move the conservative government insists is self-regulation rather than censorship. TV news magazines, reality shows and talk shows will be exempt. Many viewers dismissed the child-oriented ratings as condescending or ineffectual.

"It's hypocritical," said butcher Sebastien Foucheux, 25. "For the heads of the channels it's just a way to show they have clean hands. It's not really taking responsibility."

Secretary Sylvie Houdais said she would like to keep violent programs from her 18-month-old son when he gets older, but didn't think the ratings would keep children from watching on their own.

"What would be better is a device that could make the TV only show what we want," she said.

TOWN CRIER

CONCERT

•English Baroque Soloists & Monteverdi Choir to perform Bach's Mass in B Minor under the baton of conductor John Eliot Gardiner at the Sejong Cultural Center Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are priced from 20,000 to 100,000 won and for more information and ticket reservations call the A 8c Kolon cable television at 3660-3737, 3660-3722/4.

•KBS Symphony Orchestra 478th subscription concerts at the Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall Nov. 21 and KBS Hall Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Program: Cherubini's Anacreon Overture, Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Mozart's Symphony No. 41, German violinist Christiane Edinger will be featured. For more information and ticket reservations call the Seoul Arts Center at 580-1880/4 and KBS Hall at 781-1582.

•Seoul Gloria Choir (784-8550/5798) regular concert with the Korea Symphony Orchestra at KBS Hall Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Program: Pieces from Handel's Messiah, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, Puccini's Messa di Gloria. Tenor Shin Yong-chol, baritone Pyun Byong-chol and pianist Choi Kyung-hwa will be featured.

•National Opera Company's presentation of Menotti's opera "The Old Maid and the Thief" at the National Theater Small Hall Nov. 23-24 at 4 p.m., Nov. 25-28 at 7 p.m. Lee Jong-hun will conduct the Korean Symphony Orchestra. For more information call the National Opera at 271-1745.

•Ivo Pogorelich piano recital at the Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Program: Chopin's Sonata No. 3, Nocturnes in C Minor and E Major, Scriabin's Sonata No. 4, Rachmaninoff's Sonata No. 2. For more information call \$48-4480.

•Traditional artist Park Keum-hee's performance of pansori "Sugung-ga" at the National Theater Small Hall Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. For more information call 274-1172/3.

•Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra of Germany concerts at the Sejong Cultural Center Main Hall Dec. 5-6 at 7:30 p.m. Program: Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Mahler's Symphony No. 1 (Dec. 5); Wagner's "Flying Dutchman" Overture, "Tristan und Isolde" Overture and Liebestod, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. For more information call 3701-1602/5.

EXHIBITION

•Paintings and sculptures by the Colombian artist Fernando Botero at Kyongju's Sonjae Museum of Contemporary Art (0561-745-7075) thru Jan. 31. Korean debut of the artist famous for "figures of obesity."

•Landscapes and figure paintings by Korean-born artist Kim Pot from New York at Park Ryu Sook Gallery (549-7274) in Chongdam-dong thru Nov. 20. Recent works done in acrylic on canvas. The second show in Seoul by the artist whose works are among collections of Guggenheim Museum and Chicago Art Institute.

•Kim Chong-iyol's metal craft exhibition at the Seonam Art Center (715-9306) in Mapo-dong thru Dec. 2. Stones joined with copper rings and plates. An exhibition following his shows in Northern Arizona University Museum and Gallery Beny in Kyoto, Japan.

•"Arts of Late Koryo and Early Choson Periods," an exhibition of collection at the Chonju National Museum to commemorate the hosting of the Winter Universiad Games by the city and Muju county, thru Nov. 24, closed on Mondays.

DRAMA

•Drama—A Mode of Life play revolving on a theater group* written by Lee Yuntaek, performed by the Seoul Theater Institute, directed by Choi Jong-il, at the Pukchon Changwoo Theater Nov. 15-30, 7:30 p.m. on weekdays, 3 and 6 p.m. on weekends. For more information call 763-1268, 741-0586, fax 3672-1376.

•"Publikumsbeschimpfung" (Offending the Audience), written by Austrian playwright and novelist Peter Handke, performed by the Theater Group 76, directed by Ki Kook-suh, at the Kangkang Sullae Theater thru Dec. 31, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. with no Monday performance. For more information call 3672-1991.

•"A Chorus Line," a musical written by Marvin Hamlisch, adapted and directed by Moon Sok-bong, performed by the Kwangjang Theater Company, at the Inkel Art Hall thru Dec. 8. For more information call 3672-1391.

•"The End of the World," a three-part play written by Chang Chong-il, performed by the Muchon Theater Company, jointly directed by Kim Chol-ri, Chae Seung-hun and Kim A-ra, at the Patangol Theater thru Dec. 3. For more information call 921-7165.

MISCELLANEOUS

•Seoul International Women's Association (SIWA) Newcomers Welcoming Coffee at the Seoul Club Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. Reservations are absolutely mandatory. Call 790-8157 or fax 790-8158 for Sybille Waldeck.

•American Women's Club Newcomers' Coffee at Karen Dahl's home in UN Village Nov. 22 at 10 a.m.. To confirm your visit or for more information contact Karen at 798-5085, Jan at 742-4829 or Linda at 744-6175, fax 745-7646.

•British Women's Group "Greet the Newcomers" Coffee Morning and Pot Luck Lunch at Julia Richardson's home Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. Please call Julia on 745-5570 for further details. Its monthly meeting at the Grand Hyatt Jun Won Room Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. Please contact Denise Oddy on 3216-5656 ext. 45 for further details.

•Open Mike poetry, stand-up comedy, music and other performances at All That Jazz in Itaewon, the 4th Saturday of every month, 4-6 p.m. For more info call Duane at 798-3887.

•Latin Music in Seoul — The only place, in Seoul for Latin American music! Brought to you by the Seoul Latin Music and Dance Society. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night at the Boston, a jazz club near Hongik University Subway Station, 9 p.m. until closing. Dance lessons with Raul Arrua Saturday nights 8-9 p.m. Entrance fee: 1,000 won per person: 5,000 won with dance lessons. For more information call 793-6948 (English) or 797-4744 (Spanish).

•Writers' Joint: multi-culturalism focus; singers, poets, fiction writers, dancers, actors and musicians can perform at Basic on Stage, a club across the street from Yonsei University, the first and third Sundays of each month, 7-9 p.m. For directions or other info, call John at 476-1543.

•Lotus Lantern International Buddhist Center (735-5347): Mad Hatter's Tea Party Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. Learn all about traditional Korean medicinal teas and try them.