

# Icheon Ceramic Master Han Do-hyun at Dorich House Museum

During London Design Festival, Dorich House Museum is delighted to show an exhibition of works by Korean artist Han Do-hyun, a master ceramicist from the city of Icheon, South Korea. The works will be displayed across three floors of the 1930s modern studio home designed by the sculptor Dora Gordine in Kingston Vale. With these works, Han demonstrates his mastery of traditional Korean ceramic techniques such as white porcelain and Jin-sa-yo-byeon (copper-glaze kiln effects). The exhibition will show 14 works by Han, along with a video produced by his team which shows his working practice.

Han's home of Icheon is a UNESCO Creative City for Arts and Folk Art and is home to over 700 studios including Han's own HanSugBon studio. In recognition of his skill, Han was selected as an Icheon Ceramic Master in 2023.

Over his career, Han has researched and worked with traditional Korean ceramic techniques and has developed an incredible level of knowledge and skill. His works are all fired in his traditional wood-fired climbing kiln which he has been using for 35 years. This type of multi-chamber kiln is highly efficient in its energy usage but can be particularly temperamental and difficult to control. With each firing, Han is required to take into account the weather conditions on the day to decide when best to light the flame and then make real-time observations to manage the kiln throughout the firing. His relationship with the kiln has led him to develop a knowledge of which of the kiln chambers are best suited to different types of porcelain and stoneware, a knowledge which is only achievable through experience and dedication. The failure rate when working in such volatile conditions is high, making the successful pieces even more remarkable.

For the works in our exhibition, Han has used a mixture of white porcelain and Jin-sa (red copper glaze) techniques. The white porcelain is inspired by the classic forms of the Goryeo and Joseon dynasties which Han has devoted himself to successfully recreating, while the Jin-sa finishes are created through the unpredictable conditions during the firing process, making the designs unique and impossible to replicate.