

EXHIBITION: LIGHTS OF KOREA — JINJU LANTERN FESTIVAL



The “Lights of Korea — Jinju Lantern Festival” exhibition creates a luminous bridge that unites past and present. It crosses the oceans to connect us to an ancient culture through delicate lanterns, handcrafted from silk manufactured exclusively in Jinju, a small town in South Korea. When lit, they generate trails of memory and emotion. A universe in which colors and shapes lead to a unique experience of tradition.

In the year 1592, the spots of light stored inside a frame covered with the delicacy of silk illuminated the Namgang River, in Jinju, during the Imjin War, when Japan invaded Korea. During battles, lanterns illuminated the waters and made it possible to see where the Japanese troops were.

They were also used as a means of communication: separated family members, friends and lovers exchanged information hidden inside the lanterns, stretched from one bank of the river to the other.

Throughout their history, lanterns have become symbols of the resistance of the Korean people.

With the same silk used in Jinju lanterns, hanboks, traditional costumes from Korean culture, can also be seen in the exhibition.

The “Lights of Korea — Jinju Lantern Festival” exhibition brings to MAC the colors, lights and sensations of the Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival, held annually in Jinju, which brings together more than two million people.

The curves and shapes of MAC designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer (1907-2012) generate a rich dialogue between such different cultures and times and transpose us to this festivity.

Today, the lights represent a moment of celebration in a country whose cultural richness has enchanted the world.





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