

"2019 Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism-Thematic Exhibition

The second Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism(abbr. Seoul Biennale) this year will be continued till November 10th. Compared to the first Seoul Biennale on 2017, the exhibition scale and quantity of various participation contents got bigger, so not only professionals but also citizens are giving lots of attention to it. Last month, in 'Architecture Culture', the overall programs of the event were introduced coinciding with Seoul Biennale's opening. This month we'd like to look inside a thematic exhibition about 'Collective City', the theme of this year's biennale.

The 2019 Seoul Biennale, which will be held simultaneously in Dongdaemun Design Plaza(DDP), Donuimun Museum Village, Sewoon Plaza, Seoul Hall of Urbanism & Architecture, and Seoul Museum of History, decided this year's theme as 'Collective City' and opened a thematic exhibition in DDP. The artworks of 48 teams from all over the world are being exhibited in 'Thematic exhibition'. The works are about modern urbanization process, eco system, and infrastructure system which are extending to the new territory and being defined, material·production issue, development's alternative model and typical innovation, new type of residential right and land ownership, and negotiated type of architecture as a result of behaviorsim and resistance/arbitration. 'Thematic Exhibition' provides alternative concepts of architecture, city, and environment and it's an international communication place for reflecting new model of co-existence, social practice, governance, research and speculation to interrogate architecture's political agency. In addition to it, it questions how could modes of collective practice and action challenge the current paradigms of city development and offer resistance to the dominant systems of spatial production.

The thematic exhibition's layout, which is being displayed in DDP Design exhibition hall and Design pathway, gathers all research, proposition, and speculation together in continuous space and made connection and reiteration possible. This exhibition rather helps viewers immerse in scale and shape of world's city architecture actions nowadays than their viewing direction or specific order of an experience. Viewers could explore and understand the challenging missions which the world is facing nowadays: urgency of change in residential method and the role of architecture in amid of this situation, by their own manner.

28 various films being played in every corner of DDP are worthy of attention. The films commensurate with 'collective city', which are collected from world's renown museums and

archives, are being played. There is a special space to enjoy the films step by step in big screening room located in the center of Design exhibition hall. The films show life and behavior patterns of the collectives which form city and being formed by city. Through recorded films, documentaries, art films and research projects, the situation and collectivity of world's modern cities are shown, and by recording citizens and their lives, it introduces complexity of the city, and human & social structure in various aspects.

In addition to it, the photography work which shot 'The Tripitaka Koreana', the registered Unesco's memory of the world, is interesting. It's an artwork called 'The image and Architecture #11. The Tripitaka Koreana' by Dutch photographer Bas Princen. He frankly captured nature's regression which reveals in boundary between architecture and city landscape. To help viewers' appreciation, he developed the photography in actual size (width 2m length 3m), so that the message could be conceived to them. Among Korean architects, Cho Min-Suk, Cho Jin-Man, Lee Jin-Oh etc have participated in the thematic exhibition. Mass Study's architect Cho Min-Suk also participates as a lecturer of 'Bam island Dangin-ri Live', which is a thematic lecture having a same title with his Seoul Biennale participation work. Seoul's recent interest in ecological view, and sole use of industrial space is making new waves in city and architecture field. 'Bam island Dangin-ri Live' is an on-site presentation regarding 2 projects which are being proceeded by Mass Study on city's natural and cultural eco system. It tries to extend the concept of 'Collectiveness' in various aspects through public participation. 2019 Seoul Biennale, which has been ongoing for a month since its opening, suggests new visual alternatives to city problems, which are scattered but nobody has been questioned about, through exhibited works. It also makes us flash back the 'Collectiveness' which has been faded and forgotten but still existing, and make us think about the co-existence of it and the image of changed modern city. We expect people to have a nice time sharing city experiences of all over the world, and experience the city which 'everyone makes, and enjoy together'.