

ABC Arts: 'Tell Me Tell Me' By Charmaine Robbins, June 30th, 2011

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A first time curatorial collaboration and exchange of ideas between the Museum of Contemporary Art and the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea.

Tell Me Tell Me: Australian and Korean Art 1976–2011 celebrates the Australian – Korean year of Friendship.

Inspired by Nam June Paik's 1976 visit to Sydney and the 1976 [Biennale of Sydney](#), the exhibition explores conceptual and media art created in both Korea and Australia from that time to the present day.

Several of [Nam June Paik's](#) artworks are featured, including his iconic early manipulated television work Zen for TV. Paik developed his ideas from simple materials or technologies and is widely considered to be the world's first video artist.

Simple geometric forms and motifs exist throughout the space, as does the use of found natural materials from the landscape – in particular the use of rocks or stones. Seung-Teak Lee created the experimental piece, Godret Stone, where he hung found rocks from a loom in response to the situation in Korea in the 1970s.

According to curator Inhye Kim, the most famous Australian artist in Korea is [Stelarc](#), whose work centres on the concept that the human body is obsolete. Stelarc's work includes images of him suspended by hooks in both the street and gallery space, and the physical hooks and ropes from his 1976 Biennale performance.

On [Louise Weaver's](#) No Small Wonder carpet sculpture, objects are rearranged and scattered across the floor, referencing a relationship with tsunami and displacement.

[Brook Andrew's](#) work LOOP: A Model Of How The World Operates is a large black and white wall painting with neon spirals based on Wiradjuri shield patterns – a reference to both the past and present.

A traditional Jeong-Ha singer performed a 45-minute song on a stage designed by exhibiting artist [Yeesoonyung](#) in the week of the show's launch. Yeesoonyung's performative video art piece While Our Tryst Has Been Delayed is also on display.

The exhibition makes aesthetic and conceptual links as it showcases the connections between Australian and Korean art. Many of the artists share an interest in tradition, meditation or the role of a dematerialised object.

Jointly curated by Glenn Barkley ([MCA](#)) and Inhye Kim ([NMOCA](#)), the exhibition will travel to NMOCA in Seoul after it shows in Sydney.

[National Art School Gallery](#), Darlinghurst – Sydney 17 Jun – 24 Aug 2011

[National Museum of Contemporary Art](#), Seoul – Korea 8 Nov – 19 Feb 2011

