



WRITERS'
CENTRE
NORWICH

Norwich
UNESCO City of Literature™

National Centre for Writing

3 October 2016

Artistic partnerships flourish between UK and Korea in Norwich UNESCO City of Literature

Norwich's thriving arts and cultural scene was showcased last week during a visit from three award-winning Korean writers to Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN).

The research trip, arranged by Arts Council Korea as part of the Korea-England Co-Funding Project, aimed to demonstrate the work of WCN, the positive impact of the UNESCO title and what it is like to live and work as a practicing writer in Norwich.

It is part of an ongoing partnership between Arts Council Korea, Arts Council England, and the British Council, to promote artistic exchange and co-creation between Korea and the UK.

Delegates included the 2015 Hangeure Literature Award winner Han Eun Hyung, Independent Foreign Fiction Prize nominee Lee Jung-Myung, and Today's Young Artist Award 2014 winner Kim Mi Wol.

During their visit to WCN Dragon Hall, they met with local writer Sarah Bower, British Centre for Literary Translation Academic Director Professor Duncan Large, and Philip Langeskov and Nathan Hamilton from the University of East Anglia's Boiler House Press.

WCN Programme Director, Jonathan Morley, said:

'We've hosted four internationally bestselling Korean writers-in-residence in Norwich over recent years. Since Han Kang, our 2015 guest, and her translator Deborah Smith won the Man Booker International Prize for *The Vegetarian* this year, contemporary Korean writing has been part of the Zeitgeist as never before.

This week's research visit shows how many more exciting novelists are working out there, and we're talking to translators, publishers and funders to find ways to help them into the UK market.'

The research group also travelled to London on Friday for International Translation Day, where WCN announced the winners of its prestigious Emerging Translator Mentorships 2016 at the British Library.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further information please contact Stephanie McKenna, Communications Officer, Writers' Centre Norwich, stephanie.mckenna@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk / 01603 877177

2. **Writers' Centre Norwich** is the literature development agency for the East and led the successful bid to have Norwich nominated as England's first UNESCO City of Literature. WCN is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England. WCN supports emerging and established writers and seeks to explore the artistic and social power of creative writing through pioneering and collaborative projects with writers, readers, schools, libraries and cultural partners. Its programme includes mentoring, workshops, conferences, live literature events and talks by internationally acclaimed writers. Speakers at WCN events in recent years have included Margaret Atwood, Jeanette Winterson and JM Coetzee.

3. **2016-17 Korea-England Joint Fund for Collaboration and Exchange of Arts and Culture**

In March 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Arts Council Korea (ARKO), Arts Council England (ACE), and the British Council (BC), to promote exchange and co-creation between Korea and the UK.

This joint fund project was designed to support artists from both countries by organising research delegation trips in the UK and Korea in 2016. Following the research trips, ARKO and ACE will select specific projects for the creation of collaborative works (co-productions, co-creations, bilateral presentations, etc.) to take place in 2017. Through this project, it is anticipated that artists will be able to enrich their artistic capacities and advance onto an international stage, crossing borders and building up long-term relationships and friendships with artists and in the arts scene in England and Korea.