Press Release

"Between Serenity and Dynamism; Korean Ceramics" Exhibition shines at Milan Design Week

- Showcasing 90 works made by 16 leading Korean ceramicists
- Serenity, harmony and dynamism connects traditional and contemporary aesthetics of the highest standard
- Inheriting tradition to progress into the future, Korean craft establishes strong international ties
- Organizers: Korea Craft and Design Foundation, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism, Republic of Korea

Korean ceramics that has emphasized a harmonious balance in aesthetics between serenity and dynamism stages its individuality and creativity of the highest quality at Milan Design Week 2017. The Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism, together with the Korea Craft and Design Foundation (led by President Bonghyun CHOI) organizes the exhibition **Between Serenity and Dynamism**; **Korean Ceramics** for the **Constancy and Change in Traditional Korean Craft** project from April 4 through to April 9, 2017 (for 6 days), during the Milan Design Week in Italy.

The exhibition showcases Korea's main ceramic tendencies from celadon to porcelain to buncheong to onggi and contemporary approaches based on Korea's rich and extensive ceramic tradition. The ceramicists selected for the exhibition are masters in the field dedicating more than 30 years to their profession.

Between Serenity and Dynamism is the Key Word for Korean Ceramics.

Serenity equilibrium dynamism epitomizes aesthetical characteristics and external/internal properties of the Korean culture. The title signifies the dual nature of Korean aesthetics where there is "movement amidst tranquility," as "pursuit of serenity amidst dynamism." In other words there is "constant movement on the inside while on the outside there is tranquility" and vice versa. The exhibition hopes to reflect on the spirit of the period based on traditional sensibilities and aesthetics within the large frame of "constancy and change (creating something new by emulating old achievements). It hopes to continue the legacy of Korean ceramics by showcasing it to a wider audience meaning the world over.

Art Director Hyeyoung CHO and Curator Jungwon PARK for the exhibition states that the subject talks about the differences that co-exist dually in Korean ceramics such as "tradition and contemporary, truth and falsity, simplicity and complexity, strength and gentleness". The space for the exhibition reflects on these factors.

* Re-Discovery of Korean Tradition for International Exposure

Since 2013 under the project title <u>Constancy and Change in Traditional Korean Craft</u> the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism together with the Korea Craft and Design Foundation have endeavored to elevate Korean traditional craft to the highest design quality in order to present to the world.

This year is particularly important as the project has developed a step further to focus on leading masters with specific skills as a way of preserving tradition and progressing to re-interpret it. The President of the Korea Craft and Design Foundation, Mr. Bonghyun CHO has stated that "it is important to expose Korean culture through a wide variety of cultural exchanges and exhibitions, and in doing so strengthen craft and its industry."