

CHO Hyesu

b.1993, Based in Tokyo, Japan

Independent Curator

PhD candidate, Tokyo University of the Arts

chohyesu.com

Statement

CHO Hyesu is an independent curator and researcher working across East Asia. Moving between institutional spaces and grassroots cultural practices, her work explores curating as a process of research, mediation, and collective knowledge production. Grounded in feminist and decolonial methodologies, she is interested in how overlooked histories, embodied knowledge, and minor narratives can be reinterpreted and shared through contemporary art.

Rather than understanding exhibitions as fixed outcomes, she approaches curating as a long-term social practice that creates platforms for dialogue, experimentation, and alternative forms of gathering. Her projects span exhibitions, commissioned works, workshops, publications, and public programs, bridging museums, international art platforms, artist-led initiatives, and informal communities. Her recent research focuses on the maritime cultural sphere of East Asia, examining how the sea has shaped movements of people, labor, mythology, memory, and artistic practices.

Education

2024–current

Ph.D Candidate

in Arts Studies and Curatorial Practices, Graduate School of Global Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts

Advisor: 清水知子 SHIMIZU Tomoko

2024 M.A. in Arts Studies and Curatorial Practices, Graduate School of Global Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts.

Master's Thesis "*Coexisting: Communal Representations of Death in the Works of Women Artists*": 2024

Advisor: 住友文彦 SUMITOMO Fumihiko,

Sub-Advisor: 清水知子 SHIMIZU Tomoko, 鷺田めるろ WASHIDA Meruro

Commentator: 上野千鶴子 UENO Chizuko

2018 B.F.A. in Creative Writing, School of Creative Writing, Seoul Institute of the Arts

Advisor: 韓江 HAN Kang, 金惠順 KIM Hyesoon, JUNG Yongjoon and KIM Taeyong

Participated Program

2026 Gwangju Biennale Academy International Curator Course (GBICC) (August 29–September 10)

Host: Gwangju Biennale Foundation / Gwangju Metropolitan City,

Program Manager: Mijoo Park

2026 Global Curatorship Program, Global Art Professionals Development Project (May 25–May30)

Organizer: Mori Art Museum / Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council

Advisor: Eungie Joo, 盧迎華 Carol Yinghua LU, Adriano Pedrosa, 片岡真実 Mami Kataoka

Selected Work Experiences

2027 (upcoming) Co-curator, Title TBD, Aomori Museum of Art

Exhibition centered on commissioned works and artist-led workshops by artists from Jeju.

Examining the interconnections between Jeju's ecology, locality, and political histories.

2025 Guest Curator, The 19th Busan International Video Art Festival

(September 2–26 and November 14–December 28)

Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon, Gyeongsangnamdo & Space Heem, Busan

- Organized by Busan International Video Art Festival (BIVAF)
- Supported by Busan Metropolitan City, Busan Cultural Foundation
- 2022** Assistant Curator, *Gangneung International Art Festival 2022*, Gangneung, Gangwon Province (November 4–December 4), Organized by The PharmaResearch Culture Foundation
- 2021** Associate Coordinator, Taehwa River Eco Art Festival
- 2021** Gallery Assistant, SYP Gallery (Current: Yu Harada Gallery)
- 2020** Exhibition Coordinator, Busan Biennale 2020 (September 5–November 8)
Organized by Busan Biennale Organizing Committee, Busan Metropolitan City
- 2018–2020** Teaching Assistant, School of Arts and Humanities, Seoul Institute of the Arts
- 2018** Reporter, Web Magazine Team, National Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, Korea
- 2017** Full-time internship, Gyeonggi Museum of Art

Selected Independent Curatorial Works

- 2025** Workshop Organizer, *Slippery Squishy Splash, Rice Brewing Sisters Club & Living with Slow Disaster* THE BASES, Tokyo (September 6), Supported by THE BASES Tokyo
Space Dot, Busan (September 21), Organized by TOTATOGA Busan, Host by Busan Cultural Foundation
- 2024** Director, *the ghost project “100monogatari and 100kiyakou”*
Paradise Air, Mastudo (November 1) & Online, The collaborative research project “Art and Gender”
Sponsor by Mizuho Financial Group, Support by Center for Curatorial Studies Geidai
- 2023** Chief Curator, *Kitchen across the Ocean: SIKGU* (September 8–October 9), OVERGROUND, Fukuoka
Host by Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange & OVERGROUND Fukuoka
- 2022** Co-curator, *Virtual Bodies: Absence/Presence in Media* (March 25–April 10)
Chinretsukan Gallery, Tokyo
Supported by Nomura Foundation, Co-organized by Culture Vision Japan Foundation Inc.
Supervised by Yuko Hasegawa
- 2020** Curator, *!Two Weeks Notice!* (July 10–19), Olympic Town APT, Ansan
Supported by Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation

Selected Talks & Public Programs & Media Appearances

- 2026** Invited Talk, *Transnational Feminist Practices Across the Sea Connecting Korea, Japan, and Taiwan* (April 26)
Maritime City Cultural Planners Forum, Busan Modern and Contemporary History Museum, Busan
- 2026** Book Talk, *The Center Lies on the Outside: Rirkrit Tiravanija and the Art of Noji* (March 24),
HART HAUS, Hong Kong
- 2025** Invited Talk, *Zainichi Koreans and The River That Holds Names* (December 21), Yoon Hyejung’s solo exhibition
Forever Gallery, Seoul
- 2025** Public Lecture, *What is ‘international?’ from Keywords of Japanese Art History* lecture series (December 17),
Jeju Museum of Art, Jeju
- 2024** Interview Dialog, *Curators in Conversation: Sumitomo Fumihiko & Cho Hyesu* (October 15),
Iron Velvet Gallery, New York
- 2024** Special Features *New Face from World – Young Powers 31*, Magazine *Art in Culture* (2024 February issue.), Korea

Publications

- 2026** *Shaman, Cyborg, Utopia: Reconstructing Lee Bul’s Shamanic Cosmology*, GA Journal, vol. 7, 2026, pp.61–88.
- 2026** *Rice Brewing Sisters Club: Fermentative Practice and the Redistribution of Power*, Totatoga Critic Vol.1, 2026.
- 2025** *The Naked Other and the Dead: Death as an Expression of Vulnerability in Toshi Maruki’s Nude Representations*,
The Annual Review of Cultural Studies, no. 13, 2025, pp. 177–195.
- 2025** Co-author, “*The Center Lies on the Outside: Rirkrit Tiravanija and the Art of Noji*” Croma Editions, 2025

Conference Presentations

- 2025** *Chaotic Times and the Female Body: Shamanism and Dystopia in the Art of Lee Bul*,
Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand (July 24)
- 2024** *Representations of Shamanism in the Works of Lee Bul*,
Association for Studies of Culture and Representation 2024, Japan (November 23)
- 2024** *Ethics of Care in the Works of BuBu de la Madeleine and Dumb Type: On the Representation of the Mermaid*
Cultural Typhoon, Kobe (September 22)

Selected Translation and Interpretation

- 2026** Exhibition *Art between Japan and Korea since 1945*, Symposium Catalog JP to KR Translation
Yokohama Museum of Art (Japan) & National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea)
- 2025** Learning program *Six Step*. JP to KR Interpretation
Mori Art Museum (Japan) & National Asia Culture Center (Korea)
- 2024** Chan Sook Choi's Catalog. JP to KR Translation, *The Pulsing of Myitkyina* by TOMIYAMA Ichiro,
Arts Council Korea
- 2023** *Non-Syntax Experimental Image SISA*, Asia Forum, JP to KR Translation,
20th Experimental Film & Video Festival.
- 2022** *Busan Biennale 2022 WE, ON THE RISING WAVE*. JP to KR Translation
"Korea strait/Genkai Sea" and "Enemy's House" by TOMII Masanori