

2023 FIAF Annual Report: Korean Film Archive (KOFA)

1. Annual Acquisitions

Format	Quantity
Film	387
Digital Cinema	1,834
Videos	95
Textual materials (incl. books and scripts)	2,098
Images (incl. posters and still photos)	8,495
Archival and other materials	3,858

In Korea, once a film is given a rating, its original and a copy must be submitted to Korean Film Archive (KOFA) within 60 days of the date of classification by law. Through this submission system, KOFA collected 1,298 titles of Korean films in 2023 in the format of digital cinema.

A total of 38 video materials of Korean films, including *Betrayal* (Chung Jin Woo, 1964), which were previously unavailable, were newly discovered and collected from the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS). Moreover, four unique Super 8 films, including Yalashang's early works *Useumsori* (Kim Hong-joon, Hwang Ju-ho, 1977) and *Saenghwal* (Hong Ki-seon, 1983), were acquired. For the extensive gathering of materials from the early stages of the Korean independent film movement, KOFA surveyed 74 individual and institutional archives, prioritized collection criteria by category, and researched to establish a classification system.

As a result, a total of 9,112 non-institutional films from the 1970s to 2000s were collected. As for international acquisitions, 21 rare pieces of archival footage, including *The Singular City of Seoul* (Elias Burton Holmes, 1917) housed in the Library of Congress in the United States, were collected. Furthermore, field research was conducted at major archives, such as the Library of Congress(LoC) in the United States, the National Film Archive of Japan (NFAJ), and the National Library of France (BNF). Also, a total of 117 Korean independent films were newly collected through the Independent Film Archive Project.

2. Progress and Issues in the Field of Preservation

Inspection & Preservation per Category		Quantity
Film	Film	2,008
	DSM	874
	DCP	823
	Sound	211
Video and Audio data		3,941
Paper materials (texts, posters, flyers)		6,740
Photo materials (still photos, still films)		136,667
Archival materials (props, costumes, etc.)		577

Including films registered as cultural heritage, a total of 2,008 films were inspected and preserved in 2023. This involved routine examination and repair of collected films, as well as incoming and outgoing films, and deacidification treatments for films affected by vinegar syndrome. A-D Strip testing was conducted to assess the severity of vinegar syndrome in 600 archival recordings and short film prints. Films categorized within Levels 1 through 3 underwent treatment with Molecular Sieves to inhibit the progression of vinegar syndrome. As of 2023, KOFA held a total of 12,771 films (26,213 reels).

3. Cataloging, Documentation and Research

KOFA catalogued a total of 43,015 pieces of data, including 1,244 audio-visual materials, 30,085 images, 11,402 documents, and 291 archival materials. The list of data and the digitized materials are accessible through the Korean Movie Database (KMDb, www.kmdb.or.kr) and via KOFA library's digital information service system.

KOFA has been organizing its preserved materials into collections based on donors and specific themes, making them available online. In 2023, a total of 16 collections were made accessible online. (www.kmdb.or.kr/collectionlist/collectionGroup)

Collection	Content	Amount
Activities at Korean cultural centers and changes in film culture in the 1970s and 1980s	Activities and Significance of Korean cultural centers in the 1970s and 1980s as the subjects of oral records.	28
Pre-1950's Non-feature Films regarding Joseon and Korea	Research Analysis and VOD Services for Pre-1950s Records and Footage Related to Korea	113
Censored Materials related to Director Shin Sang-ok	Introduction to censored materials with focus on Shin	54

	Sang-ok's films	
Seoul Short Film Festival Collection	A collection of materials related to the Seoul Short Film Festival, which aimed to discover new Korean films in the 1990s	39
Oral History Collection: Kim Jae-woong	Oral biography of Kim Jae-woong, who was responsible for film production and the importation of foreign films at Hwachun Trading.	5
Children and Teenagers in Cultural Films	A collection of Cultural Films about Children and Teenagers	90
Cultural Films and Environment	A collection of cultural films addressing environmental issues	60
Anti-Communism and Censorship (1955-1970)	A collection of censorship materials on anti-communist films between 1995 and 1970	153
Oral History Collection: Nam Koong Won	Oral Biography of the Actor Nam Koong Won	5
KOFA Collection: Filmmaker Park Kwang-su	A collection donated by Park Kwang-su, a renowned filmmaker and pioneering figure in Korean New Wave cinema	192
Korean Cinema on Passion	A collection of interviews with 14 film producers and directors who were active from the 1980s to the 2000s.	55
Oral History Collection: Kim Sung-chan	Oral Biography of recording engineer Kim Sung-chan	38
KOFA Collection: Film Critic and Film Historian Kim Chong-won	A collection donated by film critic and film historian Kim Chong-won	129
KOFA Collection: Cinematographer Kim Hak-seong	A collection donated by Kim Hak-seong, a prominent cinematographer who represented Korean cinema during the 1950s and 1960s	1,626
Spatial Archiving Project for Korean Cinema	A collection of still photos taken at eight different valuable locations, which are currently in operation as of 2022	528
Oral History Collection: Roh Man	Oral Biography of Korean Film History Researcher Roh Man	27

4. Film Screenings, Exhibitions, Publications & Educational Programs

a) Key Screenings & Programs

In 2023, KOFA screened a selection of excellent domestic and foreign films that had been collected and restored. A total of 535 screenings were held across two theaters at KOFA's cinemathèque, with capacities of 321 and 150 seats respectively, over 250 days. These screenings attracted a total of 54,678 viewers.

KOFA also showcased diverse convergence art works, including “The Legacy of Modern Western Music in Korea: Western Music in Joseon meets Na Un-gyu's *Arirang*” and a staged reading of Na Un-gyu's unfinished essay *A Journey in Siberia* (1928) and his scenario *The Wasteland* (1937). Furthermore, live jazz concerts were held alongside six screenings of the silent film *IT* (1929).

A special exhibition titled “YOUR SILENCE IS A MIRROR – Gina Kim VR Trilogy” took place in the theater lobby, allowing visitors to experience the exhibition through immersive technologies such as VR, XR, and AR.

Type	Program	Dates	Co-organized by
Theater	My Own Private Top Ten Films of 2022	2023.1.2-2023.1.19	
	11th Japan Foundation Movie Festival	2023.1.25-2023.2.11	Japan Foundation Seoul
	Cinemathèque KOFA's 11 Best Movies of 2022	2023.2.24-2023.3.22	
	Seoul Short Film Festival PLAY-RE-PLAY 1994-1997	2023.3.23-2023.3.25	
	Cities on Film: London	2023.3.28-2023.4.21	
	The Greatest Films of All Time by Hong Sang-soo	2023.4.22-2023.4.29	
	KOFA Double Feature: Steven Spielberg Selects	2023.5.30-2023.6.30	
	KOFA Discovery, Restoration, and Invitation to Early Cinema	2023.6.1-2023.8.12	
	EXiS2023	2023.7.20-2023.7.27	Experimental Film

			& Video Festival in Seoul
	1960s Science Fiction films Special Exhibition	2023.8.30-2023.9.12	
	KOFA Double Feature: Lino Brocka x Mike de Leon	2023.9.17-2023.10.03	
	Year-end Bonus Indie 2023	2023.12.09-2023.12.31	

Korean classic films and KOFA collections are available online for free. A total of 380 films were made available through KMDb, attracting 39,680 viewers. On KOFA's YouTube channel, 206 films with English subtitles garnered 66,028,498 views. Additionally, 8 films were subtitled in Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian, and Arabic. On Naver TV, a total of 203 films garnered 29,741 hits.

KMDb www.kmdb.or.kr/main

YouTube www.youtube.com/user/KoreanFilm

NaverTV tv.naver.com/koreanfilm

b) Exhibition

KOFA's exhibitions ran for 225 days, attracting a total of 33,705 visitors. Two special exhibitions and one collaborative exhibition were held, which are available to watch at: www.koreafilm.or.kr/museum/exhibition/now

Exhibition	Dates	Content
All of Us are (Not) Zombies: 21 st Century K-Zombie Chronicle	2022.10.21- 2023.6.24	Highlighting the past and present of K-zombies, the exhibition explores the impact and significance of Korean zombies on popular culture and cinema.
Production Design: Scene Architects Build On-Screen Worlds	2023.7.28- 2023.11.18	The exhibition explores the works of Ryu Sung-hee, Cho Hwa-sung, and Han Ah-reum, the representative production designers of the current generation of Korean cinema.
Typojanchi 2023	2023.9.19- 2023.10.14	In collaboration with the International Typography Biennale "Typojanchi 2023", three Korean classical films will be reinterpreted by three graphic designers.

c) DVD & Blu-ray

A total of 4 titles of Blu-ray discs were produced and sold in South Korea. Additionally, a set of DVDs was produced for free distribution to international research institutes, colleges, and researchers.

Category	No. of Titles (Subtitles)	Films
Blu-ray	4 titles - Subtitles available in English, Japanese	<i>A Bloodthirsty Killer</i> (Lee Yong-min, 1965) <i>A Hometown in Heart</i> (Yoon Yong-gyu, 1949) <i>Black Republic</i> (Park Kwang-su, 1990) <i>The Marines Who Never Returned</i> (Lee Man-hee, 1963)
DVD	1 set, 6 titles - Subtitles available in Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian - Guidebook provided in Korean and English	Topic: Women on Screen 2: Understanding Star Persona through Films) Films: <i>A Sister's Garden</i> (Shin Sang-ok, 1959) <i>A Splendid Outing</i> (KIM Soo-yong, 1978) <i>Shock Continues Long</i> (KWAK Ji-kyoon, 1989) <i>Doctor Bong</i> (LEE Kwang-hoon, 1995) <i>My Mother, The Mermaid</i> (PARK Heung-sik, 2004) <i>Next Sohee</i> (July JUNG, 2023)

d) Symposiums

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice, an international conference was held to share recent research findings on the production and strategic use of recorded footage as a psychological warfare weapon in East Asia during the Cold War.

Theme	Dates	Notes
Film and Cold War in Asia : Films U.S Army and Captured North Korea Film on the Perspective of Ideological-psychological Warfare	2023.6.23-2023.6.24.	Co-organized by Institute for East Asian Studies of SungKongHoe University

e) Educational Programs

KOFA offered 33 educational programs consisting of 155 sessions designed for people of all ages, from children to adults. In response to the gradual easing of the pandemic, KOFA expanded offline course offerings and simultaneously introduced online programs to enhance the accessibility of education.

	Title	Dates	Target	Venue	Sessions
1	Introduction to Films Studies 1 : Narrative and Style	2023.1.11- 2023.2.14	Adults	Offline	5
2	Introduction to Films Studies 1 : Narrative and Style	2023.1.13- 2023.2.19	Adults	Online (VOD)	5
3	Introduction to Films Studies 2 : Issues in Modern Film Theory	2023.1.17- 2023.2.23	Adults	Offline	5
4	Introduction to Films Studies 2 : Issues in Modern Film Theory	2023.1.20- 2023.2.26	Adults	Online (VOD)	5
5	Children's Film Academy	2023.2.13- 2023.3.4	Children and Teenagers	Offline	8
6	KOFA Live Kids' Club	2023.2.17- 2023.12.22	Children	Online (Zoom)	11
7	Korean Cinema in 1990s	2023.3.20- 2023.3.30	Adults	Offline	4
8	Docent Exhibition Commentary Workshop	2023.4.1	Children	Offline	1
9	Little Cinema Workroom: Chroma Key Magic	2023.4.8	Children	Offline	2
10	Young Film Inventors	2023.4.13- 2023.12.22	Children (group)	Offline	30
11	Writing Film Critiques	2023.4.25- 2023.5.30	Adults	Offline	6
12	Master's Class: Production Designer	2023.4.28- 2023.5.19	Adults	Offline	3
13	Beyond the Frame: Actor's Work	2023.5.2	Adults	Offline	1
14	[about ARCHIVE] Digital Film Data Management	2023.5.11	Adults	Online (Zoom)	1
15	Little Cinema Workroom: Dot, Line and Surface	2023.5.14	Children	Offline	2
16	Understanding of Production Design	2023.6.7-2023.6.21	Adults	Offline	3
17	Little Cinema Workroom:A Science Trip to the Moon	2023.6.17	Children	Offline	2
18	[about ARCHIVE] Writing Video Essays	2023.7.25- 2023.8.17	Adults	Offline	7
19	Little Cinema Workroom: Marble Run Maker	2023.7.29	Children	Offline	2
20	Children's Film Academy	2023.7.31- 2023.8.26	Children	Offline	9
21	Little Cinema Workroom: Elemental Laboratory	2023.8.5-2023.8.19	Children	Offline	4
22	Introduction to Films Studies 3: From the Birth of Cinema to Nouvelle Vague	2023.8.9-2023.8.30	Teenagers and Adults	Offline	4
23	Introduction to Films Studies 3: From the Birth of Cinema to Nouvelle Vague	2023.8.11-2023.9.7	Teenagers and Adults	Online (VOD)	4
24	Playing with Light and Shadow	2023.9.3-2023.9.23	Children	Offline	8
25	Film Discussion Club for Seniors	2023.9.4-2023.9.18	Adults	Offline	3
26	Little Cinema Workroom: My Friend's Room	2023.10.14	Children	Offline	2
27	Little Cinema Workroom: Today's My Birthday	2023.10.28	Children	Offline	2
28	Little Cinema Workroom: My Friend's Closet	2023.11.18	Children	Offline	2
29	A Science Trip to the Moon (Group)	2023.11.21- 2023.12.20	Teenagers (group)	Offline	4

30	Little Cinema Workroom: The Nutcracker	2023.12.2	Family	Offline	1
31	Little Cinema Workroom: The Nutcracker	2023.12.2	Children	Offline	2
32	KOFA Picture Book Concert: Fantastic Mates	2023.12.9	Family	Offline	3
33	Little Cinema Workroom: Welcome to My House	2023.12.16- 2023.12.17	Children	Offline	4
TOTAL					155

5. Budget

The total budget for 2023 was 13,766,000,000 KRW (10,371,430 USD). KOFA is fully funded by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism as its subsidiary organization.

6. International Relations

KOFA strengthened its collaboration with Taiwan, a member country of SEAPAVAA, by re-signing an MOU with Taiwan's TFAI (Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute), fostering business exchanges. In 2023, Korean classical films had abundant opportunities for overseas screenings.

Korean Cinema's Golden Decade: The 1960s presented 24 Korean films from the 1960s at Lincoln Center in New York. This program was co-organized and co-presented by Subway Cinema and Film at Lincoln Center. Additionally, a special program titled *Out of the Ashes-The US-ROK Alliance & South Korean Cinema* featured 9 Korean films at the Harvard Film Archive's cinematheque. As part of the Classics section at the Lumière Festival 2023, *A Hometown in Heart* (Yun Yong-gyu, 1949) was selected for screening.

7. Gender Representation

As of 2023	Total	Female	Male	X
Employee Status	105	47	58	0

- The number of counselors addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence has increased from two to four, with annual training sessions being conducted for all counselors.
- Four major violence prevention education courses, which include training on preventing sexual harassment, are offered annually both online and offline.
- To support childcare and promote a healthy work-life balance, shortened working hours have been implemented (24 months, 2 hours per day).

8. Film Restoration

a) Printing and Developing for Preservation Purposes

Media	Quantity (titles)	Notes
Photochemical Duplication	29	- KOFA runs the only photochemical film lab in Korea. - Selected films from the 1960s that were made available for external rental more than three times. - 23 titles with contact printing, including <i>Golden Iron Man</i> (Park Yeong-il, 1968). - Wet gate optical printing for <i>Love</i> (Park Jong-ho, 1968). - 5 titles with Techniscope contact printing, including <i>Light of the Port</i> (Lee Sang-eon, 1972)

To improve technological capabilities, KOFA conducted a 35mm B/W Positive processing test.

b) Film Digitization

Media	Quantity(titles)	Notes
Film Digitization	61	- 4K digitization and sound restoration of 56 titles including <i>A Water Mill</i> (Lee Man-hee, 1966) - 2K digitization and sound restoration of 5 titles including <i>Title Unknown-Daehanminguk dokribui nal</i> (Unknown, 1948)

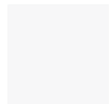
A total of 19 films underwent technical advisory screening to verify the original source, and a total of 18 films received partial restorations to enhance digitization quality.

c) Digital Restoration

Title (Director)	Original Source	Screening Format	Restoration Partner
<i>The Starting Point</i> (Lee Man-hee, 1967)	35_ON	4K/DCP	Image Power Station
<i>First Love</i> (Lee Myung-se, 1993)	35_RP	4K/DCP	
<i>My Bride My Love</i> (Lee Myung-se, 1990)	35_RP	4K/DCP	
<i>A Dwarf Launches a Little Ball</i> (Lee Won-se, 1981)	35_ON	4K/DCP	
<i>Title Unknown-Daehanminguk dokribui nal</i> (Unknown, 1948)	16_RP	2K/DCP	
<i>Golden Iron Man</i> (Park Yeong-il, 1968)	35_ON	4K/DCP	
<i>General Ttori</i> (Kim Chung-gi, 1979)	35_ON	4K/DCP	
<i>The Sleeping Buddha</i> (Lee Yong-bae, 1991)	35_RP	4K/DCP	
<i>Still Unbroken</i> (Kim Hyeon-ju, 1994)	35_RP	4K/DCP	
<i>One Day of Hitchcock</i> (An Jae-hun, Han Hye-jin, 2002)	35_RP	4K/DCP	
<i>Bangchungmang</i> (Choe Jeong-hyeon, 1983)	8_RP	2K/DCP	In-house
<i>Sangheun</i> (Choe Jeong-hyeon, 1984)	8_RP	2K/DCP	
<i>Geunali omyeon</i> (Choe Jeong-hyeon, 1987)	8_RP	2K/DCP	
<i>My Beautiful Girl, Mari</i> (Lee Sung-gang, 2001)	35_ON	4K/DCP	
<i>The Day a Pig Fell into a Well</i> (Hong Sang-soo, 1996)	35_ON	4K/DCP	

A total of 15 severely damaged films, including *The Starting Point* (Lee Man-hee, 1967), have been digitally restored. These films were either in urgent need of restoration or selected based on demand surveys for internal and external use. Additionally, five animation films, including *Golden Iron Man* (Park Yeong-il, 1968), underwent digital restoration with subsidies from the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism as part of the “Creation and Utilization of Animation Archive” project, which was initiated in 2021.

9. Others and Impediments (By team)



한국영상자료원