

Writing & Society Research Centre Seminar Program 'Writing by the River'

Mahk Making Spaces

**Rough Beauty, Breath, and Korean-Australian Making
with Richard Wu, Cheolyu Kim, Choi Eunji, Anthony Uhlmann
and Jing Han**



“Mahk”...refers to things unrefined or ordinary...Yet within such “roughness” lies sincerity and immediacy, qualities deeply Korean.” (Yoon Jung-kang, *Goodstage* 2025)

This forum brings together five international and local artists, scholars and curators to consider creative and philosophical principles at the heart of Korean *mahk* aesthetics, in the context of intercultural exchange. It is the first in a dual series of collaborations involving staff and students from creative programs across the School of Arts, which culminates with a performance two days later in the Sydney Opera House. Speakers will consider two new projects at the heart of this collaboration. In the first, Seoul-based performer Choi Eunji (*haegeum*) is working with the Sydney-based contemporary Southern Song dynasty painter Richard Wu, and with internationally renowned South Korean visual artist Cheolyu Kim. In the second, esteemed Waanyi author Alexis Wright is working with dramaturg Anthony Uhlmann and WSU's acting students with excerpts of Wright's award-winning novel *Carpentaria*, freshly translated into Korean (by Dae Young Kim) and Chinese (by Jing Han), adapting them for a series of visual, performative interactions. Panelists will consider the ways different cultural traditions can engage with suspended, non-linear time – for example, in the circular presences of Kim's 'nowhere'; in Wright's sense of 'all times' residing in place; in Choi's sense of 'time-flow'; and in Wu's explorations of 'inner mind'. Following a series of lightning talks about their creative and collaborative practices, curator Jing Han will join the four artists in conversation.

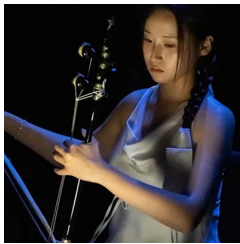
DATE: Friday 25 September

TIME: 11:00am - 12:30pm

VENUE: Western Sydney University, Parramatta City Campus, Level 9, Conference Room (right near Parramatta Station), AND online on zoom.

RSVP: for F2F attendance [rsvp via Humanitix](#). For online attendance [register through zoom](#) and a link will be sent to you.

ALL WELCOME!



RICHARD WU is a practising psychiatrist in Sydney and a Chinese ink painter whose creative work and research explores the commonalities between principles of Chinese xieyi (writing mind) painting, creativity, and western psychotherapy. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions at a number of venues.

CHEOLYU KIM is an experienced drawer and painter whose practice is informed by his childhood raised in a village at the DMZ border between North and South Korea and devoted to archival pen drawing on either paper or wood. His artistic excellence has earned him international acclaim.

CHOI EUNJI is a virtuoso Seoul-based haegeum (traditional Korean 2-string violin) performer, whose playing has been described as “precise and intense” while dissolving “seamlessly into the music’s flow”. She is currently studying Doctor of Musical Arts at Seoul National University.

ANTHONY UHLMANN is a Distinguished Professor of Literature and Program Lead, Performance (Acting), School of Arts at Western Sydney University. He is the author of a novel *Saint Antony in His Desert* (UWAP) and of four scholarly monographs.

JING HAN is the Director of the Institute for Australia and Asian Arts and Culture (IAC) and Professor of translation studies at Western Sydney University. As Director of IAC for seven years, she has curated and produced more than 30 exhibitions featuring Asian Australian artists.

Writing and Society Research Centre

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