

Steve Glines

The Artistic Seoul of a City

Seoul South Korea is an interesting city from an artistic perspective. The city is largely grey, the sky gray to yellow, depending on the wind. If the wind blows in from Chinese Mongolia the sky is yellow from the soot generated by enormous coal burning electrical generating plants. When the southwestern monsoon wind blows there can be unrelenting days of heat alternating with days of massive rain storms.

Artistically, Seoul reminds me of Paris with a touch of London thrown in. The architecture is modern, tall steel and glass but with a unique design element. There is very little color except for the potted plants that are everywhere, even on the mediums of highways. Other than that stainless steel is the dominating color. Among the automobiles plying the massive highways and boulevards with Kia's and Hundai's predominating, three colors dominate: black, white and grey. There will be the occasional blue BMW or the red Ferrari but they are outliers.

There are no public murals, no spots of color among the steel skyscrapers but look closely and you will find sculpture everywhere. From the stone walkways across the rivers to the classical bronze sculpture hidden in the corner of an outdoor market, there is sculpture everywhere....



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