Living on Air: The Art of Dae-Kyun Kim, Korean Tightrope Performer

a lecture by
Dae-Kyun Kim
Artist, Preserver of the Tightrope Performance, Korea’s Intangible Cultural Asset #58, and 2011 UNESCO designee as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage

IKS Lecture Series
Thursday, February 2
4:00 p.m. | Stillman Hall
Room 100

Jul-noreum or “tightrope performance,” is a traditional Korean art that dates back over 1,300 years. From atop the rope hung high in the air, the performer demonstrates acrobatic skills while verbally entertaining the audience. More than just an acrobatic performance, Jul-noreum is a celebration of the traditional arts and culture of Korea. For Kim Dae-Kyun, official Preserver of the Intangible Asset Number 58 and UNESCO designee as a World Intangible Cultural Asset, the rope walk is where he finds the true meaning of existence, and where he celebrates the past of his nation: “To enable Korean culture to stand proudly at the very heart of world culture in this new millennium,” he explains, “I walk my rope in celebration of the glorious revival of our tradition.” In this special lecture, Kim Dae-Kyun shares the art and history of Jul-noreum, and will play recordings of some of his awe-inspiring performance feats. He will also discuss the contemporary identity of traditional performance, with a focus on preservation and transmission. Question and answer session to follow. Open to the public.

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