

Major Collections



1. Tablet of Round Ark
2000 ~ 1600 BC

The Tablet of Round Ark contains an Akkadian cuneiform inscription of the ancient flood story of West Asia, often called Atrahasis. The epic tells that Enlil, the god of the gods, sent a flood to destroy the human race. Enki, who could not bear to watch this, intervened to save a man by instructing him build a boat. This story is often compared to the biblical story of Noah.



2. Psamtek-menty's Canopic Jar
664 ~ 525 BC

This canopic jar is a container in which the ancient Egyptians used to store human organs (livers, lungs, stomach and intestines) removed from the body during mummification of the deceased. The lids were shaped in the form of a different head according to the viscera each jar contained: human(liver), baboon(lungs), jackal(stomach), and falcon(intestines). This canopic jar belongs to the priest Psamtek-menty. His title is engraved on the body in the hieroglyph, and the lid is in the form of baboon head.



3. "Book of Joshua" from the 42-line Gutenberg Bible
1454

The Gutenberg Bible was the first book printed in the West with movable metal type, which was invented by Johannes Gutenberg(1400~1468). This is the Book of Joshua from the 42-line Bible edition, called as such because there are 42 lines in each column. Full-scale commercial publication of the book began in Europe with the Gutenberg Bible, paving the way for the popularization of knowledge and information.



4. Natural History
1476

Natural History is the first Western encyclopedia to comprehensively cover all knowledge of the time, including astronomy, mathematics, geography, zoology, anthropology, etc. It was written by the ancient politician and military commander Plinius(Gaius Plinius Secundus, 23~79) and republished by humanists in the 15th century.



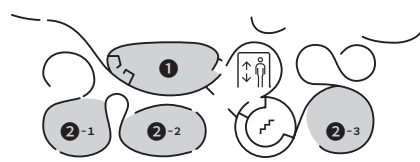
5. Oryunhaengsildo (Illustrated Conduct of the Five Bonds)
1797

Oryunhaengsildo is a book that depicts the deeds of over 150 individuals, including filial sons, loyal subjects, and virtuous wives, and explains them using illustrations, Chinese characters, and Hangeul. It was compiled in the late Joseon dynasty according to King Jeongjo's instructions. The book was printed using metal movable type for the Chinese characters and wooden movable type for Hangeul, which shows the characteristics of the neat Hangeul Gungche font.

Map

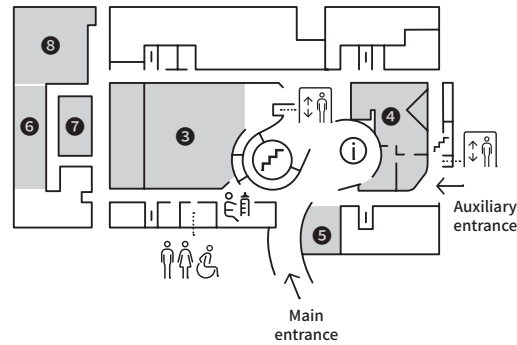
2F

- 1 Cafeteria
- 2 Outdoor Exhibition Space



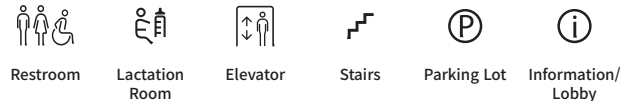
1F

- 3 Special Exhibition Hall
- 4 Children's Gallery
- 5 Art Shop
- 6 Seminar Room
- 7 Learning Studio
- 8 MoW Hall



B1

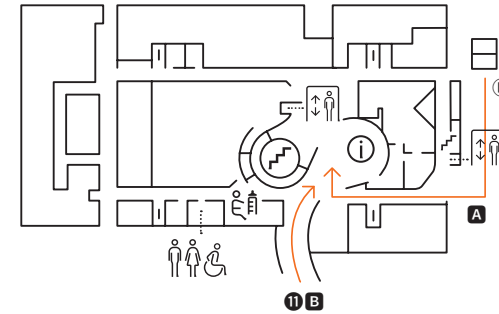
- 9 Permanent Exhibition Hall
- 10 Underground Parking Lot



Information on Access for the Disabled

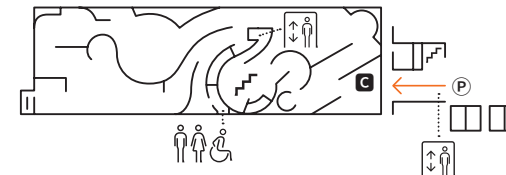
1F

- 1 Wheelchair lift (Elevator)
- 2 Parking area for the disabled (for 2 cars)
- Recommended Routes for the Disabled



B1

- 3 Parking area for the disabled (for 4 cars)
- Recommended Routes for the Disabled



- A Park in the parking area for the disabled on the 1st floor and move to the lobby on the 1st floor.
- B Use the wheelchair lift on the 1st floor and move to the lobby on the 1st floor.
- C Park in the parking area for the disabled on the B1 floor and use the elevator to move to the lobby on the 1st floor.



National Museum of World Writing Systems

Humanity in nature.

From sound to language,
From painting to symbol,
Humanity's great invention: Writing Systems.

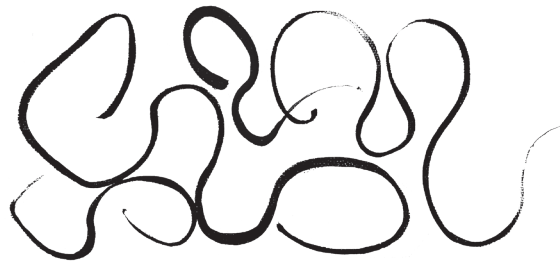
Writing Systems connect people.
Writing Systems transmit knowledge.
Writing Systems create civilization.



Pages



'Pages,' symbolizing the National Museum of World Writing Systems, holds the story of writing systems. 'Pages' was selected among 126 candidate designs through an international competition in 2017. The architectural structure of 'Pages' represents the background of writing. Designed as a horizontal open space with fluidic curves, the walls harmonize perfectly with their surroundings of Songdo Central Park. The structure is seamlessly connected with the walking path, and its interior and exterior provide a sequence of intersection, overlap, and inversion.



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Exhibitions



Permanent Exhibition
***Civilization and Writing:
A Great Journey***

The permanent exhibition shows the great journey of world writing systems and human civilization. Through the latest digital technology, descriptions provided in nine languages, exhibits for tactile experiences, and contents on writing systems reinterpreted by artists, the exhibition can be enjoyed by all.



- Key Exhibits
Tablet of Round Ark, "Book of Joshua" from the 42-line Gutenberg Bible, etc.



Special Exhibition in Celebration of Opening
Too Long, Didn't Read — What is the future of writing systems?

The special exhibition makes us reflect on how familiar we are with images and videos compared to writing. This exhibition highlights the characteristics and differences between various methods of communication and provides a venue to contemplate the future of communication.



- Key Exhibits
Rubbings of Petroglyphs
- Key Experiences
Interactive media artwork, Emoticon quiz, Pictogram photo zone, etc.



Outdoor Exhibition
Walking into Resonance

'Sensory Landscipt' by WISE Architecture, which is located in the outdoor area on the 2nd floor that architecturally symbolizes the museum, is an exhibition of sensory experiences where nature and architecture as well as writing systems and human beings resonate with each other. Please enjoy a calm moment in the landscape created by stones, light, and water rotating, touching, reflecting, and vibrating.



- Location
Designated outdoor area on the 2nd floor.



Children's Exhibition
An adventure of Writing with Kkaebi

The children's exhibition offers a playful experience of various writing systems. It is designed to be easy and fun for anyone to enjoy and learn about the culture of writing through experiences supported by new technology and the content linked with Nuri curriculum of Korea.



- Age
5 ~ 7 years old
- Key Experiences
Find the god of sun, Colorful Writing Jungle, Writing World Playground, etc.

Visitor Information

- Operating hours 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Admission fees Free (Admission to special exhibitions may be charged.)
- Closed on Mondays, January 1st, Seolnal (Lunar New Year's Day), Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day)
- Contact 032-290-2000, 2001
- Parking spaces available for 151 cars (6 buses)

Notes for Visitors

- Smoking is not allowed in any area of the museum.
- Food is not allowed, and pets other than guide dogs are not allowed.
- Please keep quiet and do not run around in the exhibition halls.
- Do not touch or damage any exhibits.
- Bicycles, kickboards, and other similar vehicles are not allowed in any area of the museum.



* The National Museum of World Writing Systems accepts donations of materials related to world writing, which will be used for exhibitions, education, and research. We ask for your interest and support for the museum to be a museum that we all build together.

