

YeonGyeong Seok – Poet, Literary Critic, and Director of the YeonGyeong Institute for Humanities, Culture, and Arts

Professional Profile

YeonGyeong Seok is a distinguished South Korean poet, literary critic, and humanities educator. She is the founding director of the YeonGyeong Institute for Humanities, Culture, and Arts, where she has been leading interdisciplinary literary and cultural projects since 2013. With a unique poetic voice that bridges ecology, Buddhism, and contemporary lyricism, Seok's works embody both philosophical depth and emotional precision. Her creative practice is deeply intertwined with her pedagogical commitment—as a longtime lecturer of Korean literature, poetics, and comparative humanities across universities and cultural institutions.

Seok has published ten volumes, including acclaimed poetry collections such as *The Days of the Eagle*, *Flash*, *Icebreaker*, *Bang Bang*, *The Universe of the Garden*, and *A Round Mirror*. Her literary criticism volume *Variations on Ecopoetics* offers essential insights into Korea's ecological poetry movement, and her 500-page literary-cultural guide *Suncheon Garden Culture with Poetry* bridges poetry, photography, and environmental education.

A sought-after speaker, she has delivered lectures and seminars on subjects ranging from Zen poetics to Nobel Laureates in literature, and from ecological aesthetics to Korean traditional gardens. She is especially known for her inspiring and in-depth poetry writing workshops at universities and cultural institutions throughout Korea. Seok is also a seasoned curator of literary events, including poetry exhibitions, interdisciplinary art installations, and public reading concerts. She has participated in international symposia and recitation events in France and Japan, presenting original poetry such as “I Nurse the Morning” and “Desert Garden” in cross-cultural dialogues.

Academic & Literary Engagements

- * Director, YeonGyeong Institute for Humanities, Culture, and Arts (2013–present)
- * Lecturer of Korean Literature, Creative Writing, and Humanities at major Korean universities
- * Lead speaker at Park Kyungni Literature House, Mokpo Cultural Center, Daeheungsa World Heritage Temple, Suncheon National University, and more
- * Specialized in poetry writing lectures and seminars for university students, scholars, and emerging writers
- * Humanities programs developed for libraries, city museums, and cultural foundations
- International Literary Participation
 - * Korean Poetry Day(Aix-Marseille University, 2023) – Recitation of original work
 - * Spring of Poets(Université Paris Cité, 2023) – Invited reading and participation
 - * Korea–France Poets' Association Ceremony– Cultural diplomacy in poetry

* Japan International Literature Conference(2018) – Lecture and recitation of “Desert Garden”on ecology and poetics

Major Publications

- * The Days of the Eagle(2016)
- * Flash, Icebreaker(2018)
- * Building a Blue Wall(2021)
- * Bang Bang(2023)
- * The Universe of the Garden(2024)
- * The Garden of the Universe(2022)
- * A Round Mirror(2020)
- * The Forest Path(2023)
- * Variations on Ecopoetics(2021)
- * Suncheon Garden Culture with Poetry(2023)

Honors & Recognition

- * Young Poet Award, Song Su-gwon Poetry Prize
- * Official Commendation, City of Suncheon

Areas of Expertise

- * Ecological and Buddhist poetics
- * Korean and comparative literature
- * Poetry writing education and mentorship
- * Public literary programming and humanities event design
- * Garden aesthetics and environmental humanities

Languages

- * Korean (Native)

Contact & Affiliation YeonGyeong Institute for Humanities, Culture, and Arts Email: syk0219@hanmail.net Based in Suncheon, Republic of Korea