



## **Pictorial Legacies of Koguryo**

Koguryo is the first feudal state of Korea which existed between 277 B.C. and A.D. 668.

It was the most powerful country in the Korean history and made a rapid development in different fields of politics, the economy and culture.

Especially, painting was highly developed. It is proved well by the mural paintings of Koguryo tombs whose colours have remained unchanged for thousands of years.

The mural paintings of Koguryo tombs include genre paintings and pictures of four guardians.



The mural painting "Hunting" is a genre painting.

Here is Doctor and Associate Professor Kang Se Gwon, Section Chief of the History Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences.

"The mural painting 'Hunting' was drawn in the late 4th century.

It vividly shows the martial spirit and part of the economic life of the people of Koguryo which was widely known as a 1,000-year-long powerful country in the East in the middle ages.

It has the powerful and noble characteristics of the Korean painting and shows well the optimistic, brave and vivacious spirit of the Koguryo people."





There are tens of tombs with murals showing the perpetuity of the national painting of Korea.

The mural paintings in the tombs depict on a high level diverse themes and rich contents including the contemporary politics, economy, culture, military affairs and customs, ancient myth and religious concept.

The artistic characteristics of the excellent Korean painting as a powerful yet beautiful and noble pictorial form can be found well in the composition of pictures and expression of colours, bold implication and intensification of description, and vigorous flow and terse conclusion of brush strokes.

The mural paintings of Koguryo tombs show the high phase of the contemporary pictorial art in view of its scope and depth of reflecting reality and of its emotional influence on the people.

