

Let the reference come alive

Museum objects become characters in Seoul, Cork makes room for every kind of costume, and a small stitch protects a big silhouette. Five findings for makers.

Craft

Performance

Community

Events

5 min read · CosplayGrid editorial

01 / PERFORMANCE

PUBLISHED TODAY · SEPTEMBER 19 RECAP



A porcelain fish becomes a winning character

Seoul Economic Daily reports that Jeon Eun-seul won the grand prize at the National Museum of Korea's September 19 costume event in the museum's Open Plaza in Yongsan, Seoul. The reference was a white porcelain carp-shaped water dropper; the performance brought its fish form to life with flopping movement. The museum's original notice confirms the final's date and venue and describes participants interpreting collection objects through costume. This is a completed-event result, not an application opportunity: that notice's June 8–July 31 recruitment window has passed. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Look beyond a front-view picture. Choose one movement suggested by the reference's form or purpose, then test it in a safe rehearsal space. An object can supply a character's outline and action without belonging to an established film or game fandom. The report is not a construction tutorial.

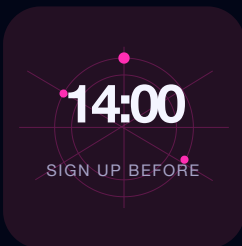


The same artifact can tell different stories

Bae Moon-Gyu's on-site report for The Kyunghyang Shinmun describes two contrasting interpretations of the Pensive Bodhisattva at the same Seoul final: one used playful turning on a pedestal, while another emphasized precise hand gestures and calm breathing. The report also describes a State Seal costume made with a ribbed exhaust hood covered in gold film, used in a performance about the object's return. These are reported choices by particular makers, not materials inferred from photographs. The English article is labeled as AI-translated; detailed quotations and uncertain name transliterations are avoided here. [3]

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Write two lines before building: what the reference is, and what your performance says about it. Research the object's context before changing its meaning. Prototype one characteristic texture or motion with suitable materials; a reported improvised component is inspiration, not proof that it is safe or practical for your own wearable build.



Cork's parade welcomes commissioned costumes, too

Octocon's September 20 programme post welcomes all ages and skill levels, including commissioned and homemade costumes, to its Cosplay Parade.

Octocon runs October 3–4 at Clayton Hotel Cork City, Ireland, and online. The Saturday parade is listed for 14:30 in Pegasus 1: sign up at the information desk before 14:00 and arrive by 14:15. The organizer says there is no raised stage, so no stage ramps or steps are involved, and asks participants to request accommodations such as accessible seating. This does not establish step-free access throughout the hotel. [4] [5] [8]

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Use the parade's own participation rules, not a craftsmanship contest's assumptions. Plan the earlier sign-up and arrival times in Cork local time, and check admission and accommodation needs with the organizer. September 13's costume-pulling theme has another practical outlet here: showing a character need not mean entering a handmade-only contest.



A reuse workshop can reach beyond the venue

The same Octocon announcement lists Kat Dodd's Sustainable Cosplay talk for Sunday, October 4 at 14:30 on Zoom. Its stated focus is thrifting, material upcycling and reducing workshop waste. The talk is pre-recorded, with Kat answering questions on Discord; it is not described as a live hands-on workshop. The event homepage offers online-only memberships. A separate Saturday 13:00 in-person Cosplayers Unite discussion needs no session sign-up, but that statement should not be mistaken for free convention admission. [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Before the talk, inventory a costume's reusable fasteners, base garments and offcuts. Bring one specific question about adapting an existing material. Confirm member access and the current online timetable before planning around the session; no free stream, remaining capacity or future recording availability is promised here.



Protect the neckline before it stretches

Seamwork's staystitching guide explains a straight stitch through a single layer of fabric to help curved or diagonal edges resist distortion. Curves cross the bias, where woven fabric can stretch, so the guide recommends staystitching immediately after cutting. For a neckline, sew from each shoulder toward the center front in separate passes. This is different from the understitching covered September 18: staystitching protects shape during construction; understitching helps a finished facing stay inside. Neither is a newly launched technique. [\[6\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Try the method on a scrap neckline cut in the same grain direction as your costume. Follow the pattern's seam allowance: Seamwork's example puts the staystitching 1/2 inch from the raw edge when the final seam allowance is 5/8 inch, keeping it inside the seam allowance. Support the fabric without pulling, then compare it with the paper pattern before joining pieces.

MAKE A PLAN

Event radar

Dates as listed at publication. Follow the organizer for changes.

Oct 3

through Oct 4, 2026

Octocon 2026 ↗

Clayton Hotel Cork City · Cork, Ireland, and online

Parade Saturday 14:30 with sign-up before 14:00; Sustainable Cosplay online talk Sunday 14:30. Times as listed by the Irish organizer; confirm current access and timetable.

FANDOM → TECHNIQUE

On the floor

Scope: two Seoul event reports and Octocon's organizer announcement. No fandom rankings, crowd estimates or inferred construction methods. Maker exercises are editorial suggestions. [\[1\]](#) [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#)

Museum collections → original costume references

Seoul's reported final turns a water dropper, a seal and a Buddhist sculpture into performed characters. Scope: this museum event, not a global shift away from screen or game fandoms.

Participation → more than handmade-only judging

Octocon explicitly welcomes commissioned and homemade costumes in one parade. This is its participation policy, not a rule shared by every competition.

Reuse → planning before purchasing

Kat Dodd's announced Octocon talk centers thrifting, upcycling and workshop waste. These are its stated topics, not measured reductions in material use.

TRY THIS

Make the invitation specific.

Invite a fellow maker to watch one short movement in an unfinished costume. Show the reference afterward. What did the outline and gesture communicate—and what could be changed using something you already own?

Sources

1. Seoul Economic Daily · September 19 museum costume results ↗
Published / updated Sep 20, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026
2. National Museum of Korea · original event and application notice ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 20, 2026
3. The Kyunghyang Shinmun / Bae Moon-Gyu · on-site performance report ↗
Published / updated Sep 20, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026
4. Octocon · newly published cosplay programme highlights ↗
Published / updated Sep 20, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026
5. Octocon · official 2026 dates, venue and membership information ↗
Published / updated Sep 18, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026
6. Seamwork · How to Staystitch ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 20, 2026
7. CosplayGrid · September 18 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 18, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026
8. CosplayGrid · September 13 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 13, 2026 · Checked Sep 20, 2026

Checked September 20, 2026. Five findings across five independent external domains: two angles on newly published Seoul recaps, two distinct activities in today's Irish programme announcement and one established sewing primer. All seven prior editions were reviewed; unchanged deadlines are omitted. Today's improvement adds Irish primary-source coverage with exact parade check-in steps and distinguishes staystitching from understitching. The museum's old application notice verifies date and context, not current results or entry availability. Its earlier planned finalist and award counts are not substituted for outcome reporting. Undated sources retain no publication date. No sponsored placements or reproduced event photography.