

## Artist of the Month

By Delgermaa Ganbat

**Artist:** Enkhtuvshin Chinbat

**Type:** sculptor, decorative artist

**Background:** He started making different dolls since his graduation from the University of Arts and Culture as decorative artist in 1998. “I wasn’t that good pupil at school and at the university too. Some teachers believed that I can’t graduate the school, but the reason was that that I fell in love with painting. My notebooks were full of drawing, but not the lectures. My class teacher, Erdenechimeg, protected me a lot and persuaded teachers that they’ll be proud of me after few years. I hope they are now” Enkhtuvshin says. He has recently introduced us his first solo leather dolls exhibition “N-Coosh”.

**Exhibition:** His exhibition “Mongolian leather dolls” at the Mongol Costumes museum during March 17-23 and displayed over 200 leather dolls, each unique, meaningful and neatly decorated with items like furniture, equipments and decorations made of precious stones, metals and leather. The dolls are mainly the figures of ordinary folks as he considers that the whole nation consists of those who lead honest and modest life. Also there are ancient nomads, Chinggis warriors, Buddhist monks and the only one female doll pregnant and standing with her two babies looking at distance awaiting for her husband left for a battle abroad. “I want to describe Mongolian history chronically starting from the ancient Hunnu till modern.



**About his works:** His dolls are the very first works mad of raw animal skin. “Raw leather is a completely new material to create an artwork and that was interesting and innovative for me. At first, when I was thinking of making dolls, I tried many materials like cotton, silk and processed leather. I sew clothes for my dolls, but it wasn’t what I wanted. I had no idea about how to make it better. Then I saw the raw camel skin and got the idea to try raw skin in making dolls. I cut some piece, made a deel. That night I couldn’t sleep and early morning I found this new technique to make a doll. This very first doll was a shaman, which is now in a restaurant in Tokyo, Japan. People there worship it and give offering to it” he explains “I study Mongolian history and shamanism. I’m quite nationalist, but I do all kinds of dolls including Buddhist figures. Now I have about 300 dolls. I use all kinds of animal skin found from Mongolian

territory like five kinds of livestock and wild animals like marmot, souslik, squirrel and deer etc. Each skin is slightly different with its quality, for example, camel skin is thick and when it dries, it becomes really hard. Cow skin becomes so thin after processing, thus each dolls are completely different with its material, expression and design.”

**About his future plans:** “Mongolians developed rich traditions in processing and using leather in their nomadic way of life. We have the earliest religion of shamanism and history of thousands of years. So I have endless resource for my works. This year, I plan to create Chinggis khaan with his Oulen mother, queen Burte, nine warriors and his folks. It’ll be exhibited and will also tour abroad” he says. The other big work will be the biggest doll made of a whole raw camel skin. “I’ll focus more on the history of the Mongols before 12<sup>th</sup> century. I have so many ideas to create and I’ll work hard to promote Mongolian raw leather dolls worldwide.”