

# The Argus

Since 1954

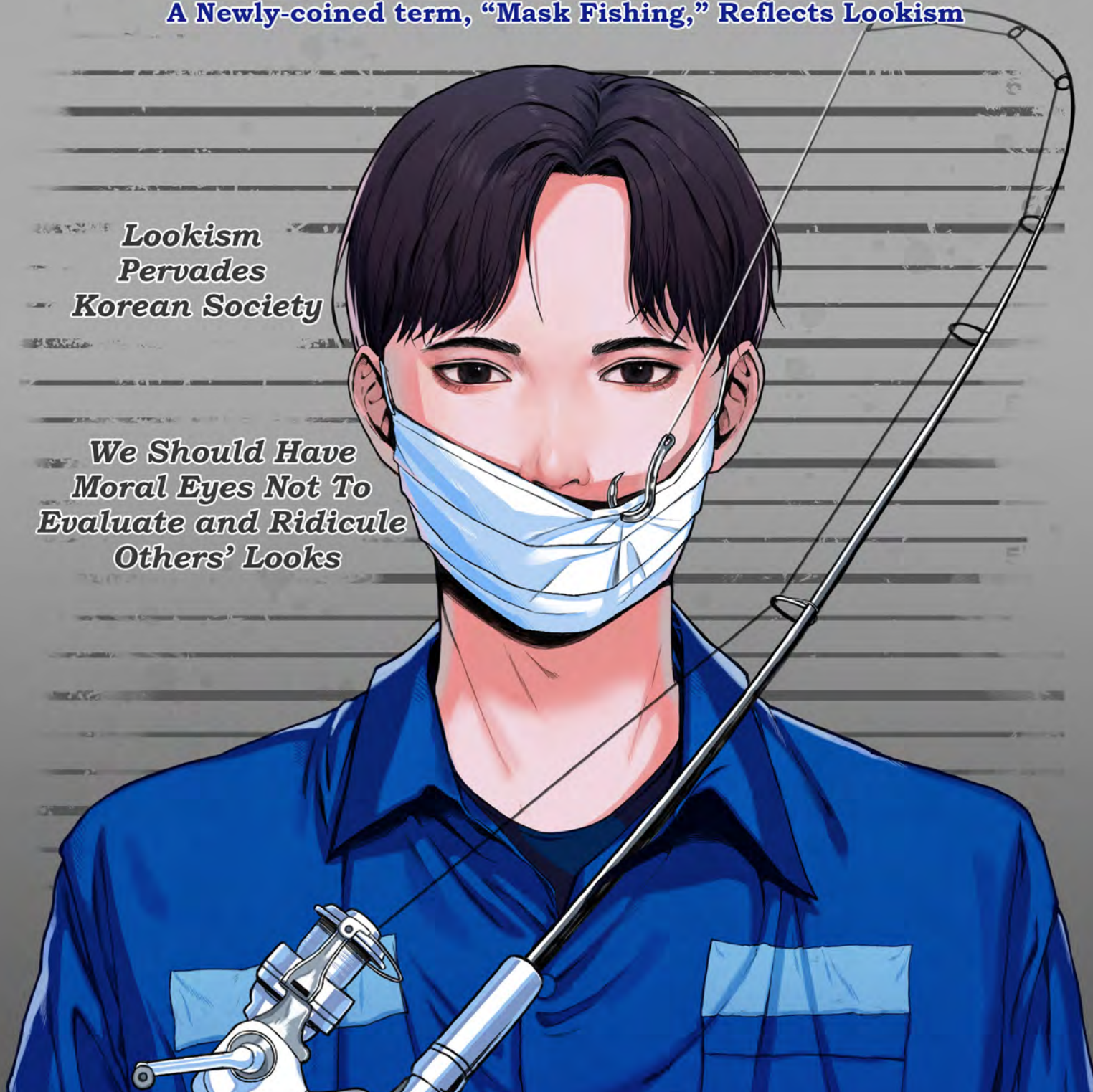
No. 532 MARCH 8, 2023

## **Who is Responsible for “Mask Fishing”?**

**A Newly-coined term, “Mask Fishing,” Reflects Lookism**

***Lookism  
Pervades  
Korean Society***

***We Should Have  
Moral Eyes Not To  
Evaluate and Ridicule  
Others’ Looks***



# The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

Published monthly except on school holidays by and for the students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, The Argus, the oldest campus English magazine in Korea, pursues the highest standard of campus journalism and academism.


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## Editorial

# Where Are We Looking?

Welcome reader! It is a pleasure to meet you all in this new year and new semester as the Editor-in-Chief of The Argus. It seems that the campus is much more crowded and full of vitality with everyone without their masks. Our office is also filled with eight reporters, including four new staff members, all writing and chatting with each other. Meeting the new season of fluttering cherry blossoms, The Argus greets all HUFsians, including freshmen. With our numerous distinctive reporters, we aim to bring you the news that is diverse, eye-catching, and important. So welcome to the world of The Argus, full of wide-ranging and interesting facts and stories. We will be working hard as your friendly guides in navigating the world.

Important it is to look at and make the most of this planet, as it shapes our values and ultimately our lives. Thus, understanding current issues correctly and having in-depth insights that penetrate reality is crucial. Every incident and event may have a hidden cause or bigger meanings than viewed on the surface. This month, The Argus is focusing on the past three years of COVID-19 when people had to wear a mask. As the influence of COVID-19 has weakened, South Korea allowed no mask indoors, letting us to breathe freely. However, there are many people feeling awkward and even frustrated without masks. The pandemic made us hide ourselves, causing fear of showing our faces. It also made us cold toward each other. The term "mask fishing" refers to tricking someone by hiding one's face with a mask and disappointing them when the mask is removed. We all look different when the mask is taken off. People did not fix and even intensified their bad habits under masks: setting standards of beauty and evaluating others by their appearance. But the term mask fishing and the attitude underlying it is inappropriate, passing judgment on the person wearing a mask, even though the critic is the one who assessed them arbitrarily and was disappointed. Reporter Kim Su-yeon asks a question: Does the mask fisher intend to trick others? From the perspective of psychology and cognitive science, Kim is exploring why people estimate the half-covered face and condemn others based on their appearance. Sometimes our actions are rude, unconscious, and instinctive, but humankind is not always right and innocent. So we need to question ourselves and consider what kind of manners and behaviors are truly fitting. As we are about to take off the mask for good, The Argus wants to understand why humans do this and suggest the correct way to move forward. 

By Cho Eun  
Editor-in-Chief

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# CONTENTS



## Cover Story

>> Wearing a mask has been our daily routine for the past three years. Now, as the government eases the indoor mask mandate, South Koreans can finally take off their masks. However, some people are hesitant to do so for fear of showing their faces to others. "Mask fishing," a phrase newly coined during the pandemic, refers to a phenomenon in which a person appears to be more attractive when he or she wears a mask. However, South Korean people often misuse the term mask fishing, labeling someone who looks completely different from an observer's prediction after mask removal as a "Magikkun," synonymous with mask fisher. However, are so-called mask fishers really to blame for this belittlement? Isn't it the fault of the eyes of others who evaluate them based on looks? The Argus shows the innocence of mask fishers by exploring the cognitive psychological cause of the mask fishing and sheds light on lookism pervading Korean society.

## 02 · News Desk

### Culture Section

## 04 · Culture Trip

"WATSON, THE MAESTRO:" A Glorious Journey in a Style All His Own

## 07 · Spotlight Culture

Virtual Reality Advertisement: Dreams Come True

## 11 · Between Cultures

East-West Dichotomy: Pictured Differently, but Same in Value

## 16 · In-depth on Culture

Art is More Than Able to the Disabled

### Theory & Critique Section

## 22 · Caduceus

There is No Same Salt Under the Sun

## 26 · Cover Story

Mask Fishers Are Innocent: The Underlying Psychology of Mask Fishing

## 31 · Lab of Janus

Investigation into Lithium Battery Before the Next Generation: Is It Ideal?

### Social Section

## 36 · Poirot's Deduction

Under the Title of "Qualification:" Dark Sides of Extracurricular Activities


## 40 · Diachrony

Environmental Laws: The Sword and Scale That Protects the Environment

## 45 · Epilogue

## HUFS School Bus Route Changes

From March 2, the school bus route will change. There are new routes for Pangyo/Seohyeon hubs, which run five times each in the morning and afternoon. Some existing route shuttles have been reduced. Above all, as the starting time of the first class at global campus has changed to 9:00 a.m., which is the same as the Seoul campus, the time of all routes has been moved in accordance with the changed schedule. Regarding the change of starting time, the school said at the regular student council meeting for the second semester of the Global Campus on October 7, 2022, “The timing schedule with the Seoul Campus is to improve the educational environment, and it is necessary to match class time to expand class choices and maximize education services.”

Regarding the change, not increasing the number of vehicles or expanding the number of existing routes, the Global Campus General Affairs Support Team answered, “Even if we have a sufficient budget, it is difficult to get a driver or a vehicle, so it is difficult to proceed immediately. Therefore, the problem of demand flocking to specific times and sections is to be alleviated through the newly established Pangyo/Seohyun base route. Also, the number of users has increased, because vehicles previously operated only in the morning, which caused students taking afternoon classes to take transportation in the morning. So, operating an afternoon route will disperse users.” Specific route changes and real-time school bus location data can be checked through the HUFS website. 


By Lee Jue-hyun

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## HUFS Selected as the Data Youth Campus University for Two Consecutive Years


HUFS was selected as the 2022 Data Youth Campus University on Jan. 6, 2023. The Data Youth Campus University refers to a university with excellent capacity to run a data science study program, a project sponsored by the Ministry of Science and ICT and organized by the Korea Data Agency. HUFS received an excellent evaluation in the field of full reorganization for the software education curriculum, reflecting the demands of the industrial field and the achievements of professors in related departments. It is particularly meaningful that HUFS has been selected for two years in a row.

Since the second half of 2019, HUFS has been operating the software-centered department for four years. By securing an additional six billion won (US\$4.76 million) as a result of the selection, HUFS is expected to have further acceleration in cultivating unique software convergence talent. Lee Seo-jin (Division of Integrated Japanese Studies '22) says, “The fact that HUFS received a great evaluation on software education is astonishing, and I look forward to HUFS taking a step towards growing various convergence talents.” 

By Kim Jun-hong

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## HUFS Rowing Team Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The HUFS Rowing team has celebrated its 60th anniversary since its foundation in 1963. On February 28, 2023, a homecoming party was held at the Grand InterContinental Seoul Parnas under the slogan of “A river runs through it.” The homecoming party was attended by alumni and members of the rowing team. Jang Soo-hyun, 56th generation of the rowing team, says, “It was a wonderful experience to see so many alumni gather at one place. I hope to see more alumni events at HUFS.” The Inter-University Rowing Competition, the biggest competition for members of a rowing team, will be held this summer. The Argus hopes for more interests in the rowing team now and forever, which promotes youth, passion, and strong sportsmanship. 


By Lee Ju-won

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## Mandatory Meal System of HUFS Dormitory

From the first semester of 2023, the students living in HUFS Dorm must pay for dormitory restaurant meals. The fee for 64 meals is 313,600 won (US\$248.89).


However, because of the cost problem and low quality of the meals, a negative stance is predominant among students even if they understand the inevitable situation of the dormitory. Accordingly, the cooperative is making efforts to resolve the fundamental complaints of students and meet their needs by announcing plans to improve the quality of meals and operate a weekend dormitory restaurant through mandatory meal expenses.

Kim Su-hyun (School of English Interpretation and Translation '18) comments, "The operating time of the dormitory restaurant for lunch and dinner needs to be expanded. Also, I hope that the menu reflects a lot of student opinions." It will be difficult to come up with a perfect solution in a short period of time, but The Argus hopes that everyone will be satisfied through sufficient communication. 

**By Park Gyeong-jin**  
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## International Exchange Program Disrupted by International Issues


Due to global safety issues such as the pandemic and ongoing international wars, some of the international exchange programs in the spring semester have had setbacks. In addition, students participating in international exchange programs in countries with high risks of COVID-19 and wars who want to return to Korea early in March should apply for a leave of absence before March 29, 2023, to return to Korea without receiving an academic warning. In HUFS' view, it is not permissible to apply for an exchange student again next semester; however, students who were scheduled to go to these areas but canceled are permitted to reapply.

Lee Eun-seo (Dept. of Chinese Interpretation and Translation '19) observes, "There are still many problems related to my exchange student program, including COVID-19 issues. However, I'm sure it will be a meaningful exchange experience if I analyze the situation and prepare for it thoroughly." 

**By Ryu Hyo-rin**  
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## HUFS Campus Job Center Opens HUFFi System

The HUFS Campus Job Center newly opened the HUFS Friendly Company (HUFFi) system in January 2023. The "HUFFi" system aims to manage information of quality companies selected by the HUFS Career Development Center and the Internship Support Center. Students can freely access employment information for 169 companies by selecting HUFFi from the Hiring/Work net submenu in the HUFSAbility website.

The integrated enterprise system, HUFFi, selected 169 companies by prioritizing five criteria: growth, specialty, global influence, stability, and HUFS affinity. In particular, affinity with HUFS is granted to the companies which received good feedback from HUFS graduates for the past three years. Also, among recommended recruitment companies in 2022, companies that offer internships, which received good reviews from undergraduate students, are classified as a HUFS Friendly Company. Heo Yun-A (Department of Africa '21) opines that "With HUFFi, students can get exact field information and prepare for a career accordingly from the opinions of seniors who have already had practical experience." The HUFFi system is expected to be a good guideline for students' careers. 

**By Kim Su-yeon**  
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©Unsplash

# “WATSON, THE MAESTRO:”

A GLORIOUS JOURNEY IN A STYLE ALL HIS OWN

©Lee Ju-won



By Lee Ju-won

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“Find the beauty that others don’t see and capture it with your camera.” Albert Watson has taken photographs of the beautiful things that only he could see. What is special about Albert Watson is that he adheres to the analogue way of creating images even in the present advanced world of technology where digital imagery can be easily seen. The special sensibility conveyed by analogue film with his unrivaled gaze makes an impression that is impossible to compare with anything else. And finally, in “WATSON, THE MAESTRO,” Albert Watson photography exhibition, people living in South Korea can experience the world with his special eyes. The Argus will give readers time to find beautiful things by introducing his works.

## | Who is ALBERT WATSON?

Albert Watson worked with director Alfred Hitchcock, actress Kate Moss, and Steve Jobs, icons of the era as well as Prada and CHANEL, luxury fashion brands. Since 1977, his first year of shooting for the fashion magazine Vogue, he has shot more than 100 Vogue covers, and is the longest-serving collaborative photographer with Vogue. He pursues true photographic art, regardless of genres and themes such as nature, characters, and stationary objects. He was also named one of the 20 most influential photographers of all time by Photo District News.

## | Visit Information

### Location

Hangaram Art Museum Gallery 3, Gallery 4. It takes 10 minutes on foot from Exit No. 5 at Nambu Bus Terminal Station of Line 3.

**Date** 2022.12.08-2023.3.30

**Time** 10:00-19:00 (Closed on Mondays)

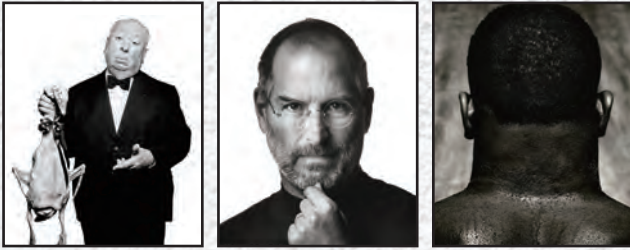
### Admission Fee

Adults (age 19 or older): 20,000 won (US\$15.61)

Youth (13 years through 18 years): 16,000 won (US\$12.48)

Children (3 years through 12 years): 11,000 won (US\$8.58)





▲ In an interview with Vogue Korea, Watson said that the know-how for shooting a portrait is enjoying talking to everyone. With communication, he put people in emotion like he did to Steve Jobs.

©Albert Watson

## ; *Capturing the Identity*

Analogue film is coated with a photosensitizer that reacts to light, leaving black marks on the place where the light touches. After soaking this film in a developer in a dark room, the photograph can be developed by washing the photosensitizer that did not respond to the developer and exposing it to the light. The exhibition room, which is visible only through blackout curtains, makes visitors feel as if they entered Albert Watson's darkroom. When the blackout curtain is opened, a red-painted wall leads visitors to "Alfred Hitchcock, Los Angeles." The photo was designed for the Christmas cover of Harper's BAZAAR, a fashion magazine, to share Hitchcock's own goose dish recipes. At first, the concept was Hitchcock holding a goose dish, but Watson suggested a pose holding a dead goose's neck because he looked like a restaurant manager. It reminds us of a scene in his suspense thriller movie, but the appearance of a goose with a yellow ribbon around its neck like a Christmas gift changes the mood. Starting with the legendary film director, Hitchcock, Watson began to take off with his portrait photography.

"Steve Jobs, Cupertino, California" is a portrait of Steve Jobs, an icon of innovation in the 21st century. Steve Jobs in the black and white photo is looking sharply forward with his chin in his hand. It looks like a simple passport photo with a white background, but Steve Jobs was completely fascinated. However, he did not want to take pictures and was not friendly to Watson from the moment he came into the studio at 9 a.m., in 2006. Watson then asked for one thing after telling him that he will finish shooting within 30 minutes. "Imagine you are across the table from four or five people who don't agree with you, but you know you are right," and then Steve said, "Easy for me, I do that every day." His eyes exude his genius, intelligence, and confidence. It can be said that this is Watson's most famous portrait.

Visitors can see the back of a man who is dripping with

sweat. It is hard to recognize who he is, but the aura from the solid neck like a pillar reveals masculinity. In "Mike Tyson, Catskills, New York City," Mike Tyson was a rising star in boxing in 1986. Why did Watson emphasize his back, not his face? Watson's father, a former professional boxer, said, "The power of a boxer comes from the neck." Based on his father's words, Watson told Vogue in 2021: "If you look at the picture of Mike Tyson's back, you can see where the boxer's power comes from. If you can capture such a thing, the photograph will be more powerful." In this way, he used his experience to capture the identity of the subject and successfully completed the work.

## ; *Challenging Original and Experimental Photography*



▲ Watson preferred the relatively safe cheetah, but eventually the leopard was chosen.

©Albert Watson

A girl with hair freely stretched out crouches down on an enormous coffee cup saucer, looking up somewhere. The girl seems to be a little annoyed or anxious waiting for someone. Is it because the coffee cup is empty? "Carmen with Cup & Saucer, New York City" is a commercial photograph of Italian coffee brand Lavazza. Surprisingly, at that time Photoshop was unusual, so a 15-foot-tall coffee cup was actually created; it was illuminated at the upper left to make the cup look real. A small screen next to the work plays pictures of women with various skin tones holding sugar cubes or hugging coffee spoons. This is a metaphor for Lavazza's wide range of flavors and different styles of coffee. As such, Watson continues to create original work by mixing corporate philosophy and surrealistic art.

Watson continued to take pictures of animals as well as humans. "Monkey with Masks, Contact Sheet, New York City," in which chimpanzee Casey poses in colorful masks



## Culture Trip

against the backdrop of red, blue, green, and yellow. It can be guessed that Casey has an active personality by smiling with teeth showing, scratching its face with hands, or pouting lips. After eight hours of filming, Watson and Casey became attached, and Watson served Casey tea and they “talked” together. In 1992, the same year, Watson also worked with a wild leopard. The remarkable thing is that the enlarged photo of the leopard’s face seems to have human features. This is because “Mick Jagger, Los Angeles” was edited with photos of Mick Jagger, a member of Rolling Stones, and the leopard with an analogue double exposure technique. This technique is a method of drawing the leopard’s features and appearance on the camera viewfinder to get an outline, and then rewinding the analogue film to align the eyes of Mick Jagger with the leopard. Today, composite photography can make it easy for everyone, but Watson is considered as an experimental photographer for attempting a double exposure technique that was unusual at the time.

### ; *Absorbing the World*




▲ When Watson encountered the Berber family in the Atlas Mountains, he took the photo. Watson read the book of impressionist painter Edgar Degas because he wanted to portray Isle of Skye as a Gothic-style or Victorian masterpiece.

Albert Watson is said to have gained a lot of inspiration from human daily life and culture while traveling around the world. “Children’s Ballet School, Beijing” shows a child in a ballet suit balancing herself on a balance beam, lifting one foot with one hand. In the ballet school where a little ballerina practices ballet, pictures of Mao Zedong, the first Chinese Chairman, and Zhou Enlai, the former Prime Minister, hang on the wall.

According to the Hangaram Art Museum Gallery, when Watson visited China, he was impressed by the way Chinese people lived with reverence and he took pictures of these political figures on the wall behind her, taking part in the Chinese people’s lives.

Moreover, Watson tried to capture human beings living in the mysteries of nature with a camera. Morocco is located in northwestern Africa and has the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara, boasting beautiful natural scenery. During 39 days in Morocco, Watson never wanted to miss a thing, so his Hasselblad camera, portable strobe and 35mm camera were always on his lap. In “Aicha Haddaoui, Berber family in the Middle Atlas Mountains, Morocco,” the old hands hold the forehead and chin of a child with curly hair. However, the child avoided eye contact by rolling his eyes to the left. It is because the boy’s grandmother fixed his face to make him look straight at the lens, but he moved just before clicking the shutter. This picture was taken unexpectedly, but it is full of the exotic flavors of Morocco.

Although Watson traveled to many places including China and Morocco, he said he was happiest when he curled up in the wind and rain on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. “Ullinish Point, Isle of Skye, Scotland” contains impressionistic and surreal natural beauty. If visitors look at the work, the surface of the lake and the flow of water are expressed very delicately. This is because Watson woke up before sunrise every day for six weeks and without a break for 12 hours until sunset sought to capture the moment when the wind changed the flow of the water. Lee Hye-won, a 22-year-old female viewer, said: “Watson planned for two years to shoot this work, and he intentionally went there when the weather conditions were not good, in October and November. It is impressive that he did his best to capture the scene from his hometown.” These three works are Watson’s personal projects, which can be seen as the footsteps of his efforts to become a true photographer. In other words, he pursues someone’s life and the place where they grew up at each step and provides time for visitors to think about their lives and home.

Albert Watson has been blind in one eye since birth, but has captured the world with a camera lens. The viewfinder with one eye is entirely his world. Watson does not just let the little things go by. Things that ordinary people would just pass by become meaningful and captivating photographs created by his warm eyes. “Don’t let little gems pass you by,” he said; the little things in his pictures come up big and move people. The Argus recommends that readers visit “WATSON, THE MAESTRO” and spend some time contemplating his pictures. 

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# VIRTUAL REALITY ADVERTISEMENT: DREAMS COME TRUE

By Choi Ye-jin

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

**O**n March 23, 2023, the international advertisement festival ADFEST\* will be held offline for the first time in four years. Since it has been online for a while, many people related to the advertisement department are looking forward to it. Meanwhile, South Korea has also been winning international prizes the past few years, making commercials through various techniques. It is a good chance to see South Korea's high-quality advertisements, especially in the Public Relation and Media fields.

In 2016, Korean car manufacturer, Hyundai Motor Group, made a groundbreaking commercial called "Going Home" using a Virtual Reality (VR) technique. This commercial won second place at the Cannes Film Festival, which is one of the three main international advertisement festivals. Through this commercial, the possibility of VR advertisement has increased: a new generation watching a lively and realistic advertisement instead of a two-dimensional commercial is coming. VR, which is well used like "Na-yeong," one part of the television program made by Korean terrestrial television Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, has a lot of possibilities. They provided a daughter's image who passed away for the mother through VR. The Argus will explore the features and possibilities of VR and the use of VR commercials.

\* ADFEST: An international advertisement festival held in Pattaya, Thailand, every March. CheilWorldwide, a commercial company from Samsung won 19 awards, including four gold places, and iNNOCEAN, a commercial company from Hyundai, won nine in 2022.

## 1. WHAT IS VIRTUAL REALITY?

The term virtual reality (VR) was first used by poet and playwright Antonin Artaud in his essay "The Theatre and Its Double" (1938) to express fantasy of the nature and the objects. The writer also said VR is a "interface between human and computer, making a person feel like one is in a real situation in circumstances created by a computer." Also, Burdea and Coiffet who wrote "Virtual Reality Technology" (1999) defined the features of VR into I3, meaning Immersion, Interaction and Imagination.

Then, what does Virtual Reality Advertisement exactly mean? According to Virtual Advertising and Brand Awareness (2006), virtual advertising, also known as virtual signage and/or electronic billboards, is a technology that allows the seamless insertion of computer-actuated images into a video sequence. In other words, it is a commercial that uses a new computer technique. But while it is still not defined precisely in South Korea, other countries normally use VR advertising more than VR advertisement. Other countries use this word as one method to promote objects through these commercials. Therefore, the advertising world pays attention to VR, which has the power to immerse potential customers into their product.



© Getty Image

▲ A VR headset is being used for virtual reality experiences.



### 2. WHY VR?

#### 1) Immersion



▲ Google Cardboard is made out of box and it is easy to make.

What is the most important point to consider when a company makes commercials? It might be the ability to allure customers into immersion without taking their eyes off the video. VR makes this immersion possible because VR commercials are different from normal commercial by providing experience service. According to Customer Service Steps, the first step is Customer Service, the second step is Customer Satisfaction, and the last is Customer Surprise. According to “The Moderating Effect of Service Type on the Customer Delight-Behavioral Intention Relationships,” customers do not feel satisfaction simply by buying things, but also feel more surprised when they experience the product. Thus, if the company can provide the experience of using their products to the customers, it can maximize the effectiveness of advertisements by inducing customer impressions.

The merit of VR is that people do not have to go to exhibitions or trial performances in person. Digital appliance company Samsung launched an online store -- Samsung VR Store -- to promote appliances and products. Since it has the same appearance as an offline store, customers can take an intimate look at washing machines, refrigerators, and laptops by only using the homepage created by Samsung. Also, Swedish car company Volvo released the XC90 SUV “Volvo Reality” test drive video. This car advertisement is performed to make the customers buy and make a “Google Cardboard VR Headset,” and enjoy the VR video service. Another example is Hyundai Motor Group’s eco-friendly car “IONIQ” VR video advertisement. Users can take a look inside of the car and have a driving test through the video. As the VR technology allows people to get immersed in commercials without actually visiting the exhibition in person, they can feel the product effortlessly as if they were in the real world. It is very advantageous if advertisers can give an “imprinting effect” on both products and the brand to the customers for a low investment for commercials. For a company, one-on-one sales are possible and for customers, they can enjoy and experience the products easily.

#### 2) Interaction

Commercials are a kind of communication. Han Jung-yeob, Professor of VR/AR Content at the Graduate School of Film and Digital Media at Hongik university, says “Commercials are not only a type of communication, but also an interaction between a seller and a buyer.” According to the Ministry of Future Creation and Science in South Korea, interaction is defined as a specific situation for the users to interact with an interface using computer technology. By stimulating the user’s senses, the computer system also senses the user’s movement and helps them adjust to the virtual environment.

Good Day, a soju company in Korea, was a hot potato advertisement for using a 360-degree turn method taking a shot of Park Bo-young, a famous actress in Korea. The video, which is uploaded on YouTube, shows a long shot of Park drinking soju in front of the viewer. The company uploaded this video, which includes Park talking to “me,” while being able to hear all the conversations of other people at another table. Also, users can pick anywhere they want to see. And through the long take shot of “me,” walking down the street feeling the tree breeze and the feeling of butterflies in “my” stomach, the users can feel the circumstance vividly. In this way, the advantage of 360-degree storytelling



▲ It feels like Park Bo-young is speaking right in front of users in the advertisement.

©Good Day Youtube



is available as a feature of VR. Since ordinary advertisements are made of two-dimensional images, they can be viewed from a single viewpoint. However, VR advertisements allow you to enjoy the video at any angle and to see detailed storytelling in various places. It is also a lot of fun to interact with the characters in the video one-on-one.

While ordinary video advertisements usually convey information in one way, VR commercials approach the customers with many aspects in a lifelike video. This advantage maximizes the customer's shopping experience, turning them into active consumers who may well spend more time on the commercials. This virtual circumstance enhances the connection of both the consumer and the virtual environment to let the buyer feel familiar with the items. For another example, Sandra Chattouni, a sales representative for the Miami construction company "Fortune International Group" in the U.S., offers a view of the beach of an unfinished 57-story building construction with VR technology. By allowing potential buyers to see and feel the view, Chattouni's VR promotion attracts customers to Miami at a much lower cost.

### 3) Imagination



▲ New Balance opened a Igloo VR pop-up store for the promotion.

The advertisement using Kim Ku-hyun's hometown story, released by Hyundai Motor Group, is also a well-made VR commercial. This is a good example to introduce the last feature of VR: imagination. Hyundai produced an advertisement for people who lost or could not go back to their Northern hometown due to the division of North and South Korea. The main character of this video is Kim, who has been unable to visit his hometown since 1947 because of the sudden division. Based on his memory, Hyundai started to build a huge image of his homeplace. Using various techniques, people engaged in this project made an effort based on information and their imagination. Geographers analyzed the humidity and seasonal temperatures of the area, while the visual designers and the space designers arranged the location of houses, trees, and even flowers. Finally, Kim's dream of going back came true through a VR video.

Usually, commercials have a goal of promoting products and brands. That is the reason why they plan marketing strategies. However, VR commercials convey information in fun and entertaining ways. The workout clothes company New Balance launched a "VR Pop-Up Store" in Sinsa-dong, Seoul, in 2021. Using "BUILD UP WINTER, NB IGLOO" as a slogan, the company produced a VR igloo to promote items. The user is invited to go inside the igloo, and see and touch a variety of new items. VR techniques let us go to places where we cannot physically go by using imagination and creation.

## 3. PROSPECTIVE

### 1) Then Why Is It Not Used That Much?

However, since 2017, there were nearly no sensational commercials using VR, and only pop-up stores were using it. Meanwhile, from the orientation for freshmen in college to job fairs, the usage of metaverse has jumped. The usage rate has skyrocketed due to COVID-19. ZEPETTO, a famous metaverse company in South Korea, released data in 2022 showing that the number of users increased from 100 million in 2019 to 300 million as of March 2022. Then what is the difference between VR and the metaverse, and what is the cause of this difference?



To enjoy VR content, one must wear some equipment on one's head. This is a quite heavy and expensive method for the customers to use and buy. This is the main reason why people do not want to use VR and the investors hesitate to invest. Also, wearing something on the head is not the only thing that makes people uncomfortable. The other thing is that it can cause dizziness and accidents because of the virtual feature. There was an accident in 2017, when a man died because of excessive bleeding, after he slipped on a glass table during a VR game. Also, there was a woman who did not know that she had an accident, because she thought that it occurred in the VR game. This is all because the gear blocked our eyes to see what was happening in the real world. The lack of proper safety measures and no solution to this is the biggest problem right now.

According to Professor Han, the gear is heavy and expensive, but the bigger problem is that there are many people who think VR is something only experts work with and enjoy. Professor Han says, "How comfortable the gear will be is not a big deal right now, because the gear as light as glasses will come out in the near future. However, since there are no rules, it is also easy to commit a crime such as cyber bullying." Thus, it is important to establish careful and clear norms, because this area may well raise ethical issues.

### 2) There is Still a Chance

The competition in VR started a few years ago. Google, Facebook, which is now Meta, Apple, Samsung and a lot of other companies are competing with each other. Apple is planning to release "Reality Pro" this fall. This gear is expected to have a huge impact because it is likely to be connected to iPhones, iPads, MacBooks, etc. It would be easily accessible and will be designed for less power usage. However, since Google and Microsoft failed with AR glasses, Apple must be in deep consideration right now about how to succeed in the VR gear market. If Apple will be successful in making a wonderful Reality Pro, it would be also possible for people to enjoy VR content using Apple TV or any other platforms. And this will apply to the commercial market too.

Actually, the huge barrier using VR is getting lower these days. The prices are getting reasonable and it is even easy to make it by oneself. The cheapest one is 20,000 won (US \$16.31), and a moderate one is 150,000 won (US\$122.36). The Google Cardboard is also a good choice for beginners. And now, there is a lot of contents available using YouTube, due to their VR service. Professor Han says, "Commercials are one way to communicate. Ordinary commercials analyze targets by ages or culture. However, using VR technologies, it is possible to have a larger customer base, and help them experience commercials and products. This is called 'Experiential Marketing.' Through this, producing more effective commercials will be feasible." Therefore, it is important for a company to think about how to make customers highly satisfied by a low VR technique price. This will be the key point for the customers to use VR items and enjoy content such as VR commercials.



▲ There are a lots of pros and cons on VR section.

Which way will Virtual Reality advertising flow? The answer depends on the wide participation and effort of those who are interested in VR, and especially for the companies. However, it might be premature to limit the possibilities of VR. Though it is clear that there are limitations, VR is different from ordinary video advertisements because it is possible to produce advertisements without limits on time and space using immersion, interaction, and imagination.

In the virtual world, you can wear what you want to wear, and you can use a car and use the electromagnetic equipment you want. You can go to places that you can not physically go, and you can even meet people whom you lost a long time ago. Wouldn't this magical VR technology bring sweet dreams to the advertising arena and both consumers and sellers? The Argus hopes to enjoy various and sweet VR advertisements soon. 📺

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# East-West Dichotomy: Pictured Differently, but Same in Value

By Choi Ye-jin & Lee Ju-won  
*Staff Reporters of Culture Section*

A long time ago, photography meant a portrait before the digital camera was used. It was because people wanted to remember themselves as realistically as possible. Before there were photographic techniques, many people who had powers both in the East and the West left a drawings of themselves. Because people in both cultures hoped to use portraits as memories of themselves, these pictures meant more than just portraits. Although Eastern and Western portraits have the same artistic worth, there are differences in how both cultures express and depict a person. If Western people glorified concealing flaws, Eastern people drew as photographically as can be. The Argus will analyze the difference of the portraiture of these two cultures and hopes that the readers will embrace diverse cultures better.





### The West



#### Beautifying Instead of Photoshopping



©The World of the Habsburgs

▲ The Princess is wearing a white dress like an angel.

Western portraits beautify appearance rather than depict actual reality. “Infanta Margaret Theresa of Spain” (1656) is an example of this. Having white skin, crystal-clear eyes and wearing a red-ribboned and white-pearled dress, the princess in this picture attracted many people because of her cute angelic appearance. Diego

Velazquez\* drew this picture to show her appearance to the father of a man who was going to be her husband when she turned 15 years old. Drawing her like an angel was to promote the marriage. Also, when looking at Western portraits, it is easy to see people using frilled scarves (shawls) or fancy fans. This is because the Habsburg family, who has a 600-year history in Europe, had a genetic disorder. Since the family wanted to maintain a pure royalty at that time, marriage between the families was carried out. As a result, symptoms such as ocular protrusions, malocclusion, spatula jaws, and hooked nose became unique flaws of the family. This is why many portraits - especially of the Habsburg family - were beautified, covering these symptoms using fans or scarves. Chung Young-han, Professor of Chung-Ang University, School of Fine Art and College of Arts, said that there were also political causes for this kind of portrait. Professor Chung said, “The purpose of covering the ‘weird jaw part’ is because a portrait has more meaning than a picture. Since it is something that will be seen by everyone, how it will be shown to people is a much more important point for them than how the people really looked.”

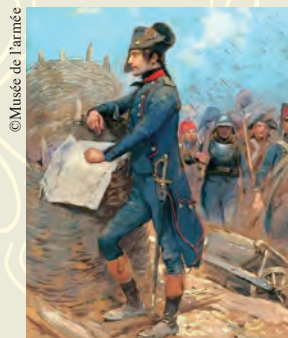
The Habsburg family was not the only one who beautified portraits. The Tudor dynasty, which was founded in 1485, also used portraits for marriage. Henry VIII\* believed that age, appearance, body shape, and even health conditions can be inferred by looking at a portrait. Henry chose Ann of Cleves as his fourth wife by only looking at her portrait. In

conclusion, he was deeply disappointed because Ann’s real appearance was considerably different from how she looked in the picture. He even shouted at her, yelling “Get rid of that ugly woman with a heavy body and poor skin!” In Western culture, marriage was one of the important methods for dynasties to survive in history and politics. Thus, concealing facial flaws and beautifying was a common practice at that time. Moreover, expressing the beauty of a person was one way to express the person’s character and virtue. This is why people in Western countries tried to beautify portraits for showing virtue and to maintain their image for both family and political reasons.

\*Diego Velazquez: He remained as court painter for the rest of his life in the 17th century.

\*Henry VIII: A king from a lineage of the Tudor family. He is known to have married six times.

#### Expressing Individuality through the Background



©Musée de l'armée

▲ Napoleon Bonaparte I is commanding in the war.

It is quite hard to find portraits that do not have backgrounds in Western pictures. A portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte I,\* “Bonaparte at the Siege of Toulon” (1793), shows Napoleon leading the war. “The Council of the Five Hundred at Saint Cloud” also has a background of him managing the Five Hundred People’s Association, showing

Napoleon’s strong power in that century. Also, Maximilian I,\* the main character of the Maximilian I, “Bildnis in Halber Figur” (1508) is pictured with a crown on his head holding a baton while wearing an armor to depict his power during his reign. In such manner, Western portraits exaggerated a person’s personality and dignity through the background including items, clothes, and decorations of the room. Also, each picture has different functions and characteristics, which help people infer a story. This is a different point from the East.

The reason why portrait artists in the West devoted themselves to fill in the background is because the wall is one way to express the subject’s individuality. Due to the importance of individualism in Western culture, it was important for upper class people to be distinguished from each





▲ Maximilian I is sitting down on the chair and holding a baton.

other because, otherwise, the portraits might look the same with no uniqueness. Professor Chung said “Each portrait reflects its own characteristics including religious or socio-cultural elements.” Rococo\* style, a fancy decoration style, was used commonly for portraits of the upper class. But this does not mean that the intention was

just to show off decoration for the subject of the painting, but to express their personality by drawing colorful walls. Therefore, it was also normal to decorate themselves by using big and fancy accessories like pearls or dresses. Posing in a different way such as sitting down, standing up, or even riding a horse was absolutely a way to depict one’s personality.

\*Napoleon Bonaparte I: A soldier from a lower aristocratic family who made a great contribution to the war during the French Revolution and became a national hero.

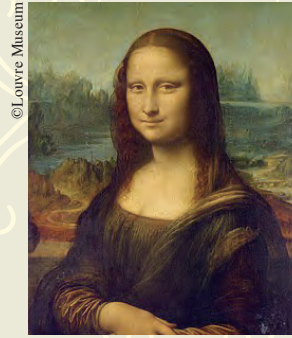
\*Maximilian I: Holy Roman Emperor from the Habsburg family, who actively promoted political marriage and greatly expanded the territory and power of the family.

\*Rococo: An art form originated in France in the 18th century that largely uses vivid colors and delicate decorations expressed in frivolity, taking over the luxurious taste of the Baroque era.

### Above Contrast, Perspective, and the Chiaroscuro Technique

Both contrast and perspective methods were commonly used in the Renaissance. Because of this, the person in a portrait gets a little embellished but looks like a real person. Like the picture of Princess Margaret Theresa, Diego Velazquez, the court painter of the family, drew a person more realistically rather than in an idealized version. It is different from just simply beautifying, because he would not draw the portrait of the royal family easily with no idea. Thus, he drew the person’s face and the body through Chiaroscuro technique which required flexible and thick brush strokes. When drawing black backgrounds, shallow touches were needed to contrast depth. Meanwhile, when painting a light section, thick and repeatable touches were needed using a white dye made of lead. By this meticulous method, painters did not need to use heavy touches to depict the contrast of the color and the light.

The most commonly used material for Western paintings was oil. Due to the characteristics of oil paints, it became possible to fill in the color, creating contrast by adding a new



▲ Mona Lisa has a faint smile on her face. This picture drawn with oil pastels.

layer on the picture. This creates a sense of depth of the space and causes the painting to be more realistic. This method is called the Sfumato method, a shading method that softens the boundary between colors without clearly distinguishing boundaries. This Sfumato method is one of the Aerial Oxidation,\* which is intended to be so foggy that wrinkles

or blemishes are not shown. Professor Chung said that there is a difference between the Baroque era, which emphasizes Chiaroscuro, and the Renaissance method using perspective. Professor Chung said, “Perspective is divided into linear perspective and Aerial Oxidation. Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Mona Lisa’ is a representative example of this Aerial Oxidation. Rather than dividing the space mathematically, a sense of depth through brightness and darkness, and shaping the space exaggerates the contrast of colors.” Mona Lisa’s calm and mysterious smile came out with a deep contrast without the linings of this method. With this tremendous method, some people in the portrait are clearer in the contrast with a black background, which maximizes contrast.

\*Aerial Oxidation: A technique that provides perspective using an air layer. For example, light is absorbed, reflected, and refracted by water vapor, fog, rain, dust, and smoke, and thus various forms of perspective are used.



### South Korea



### Being Realistic and Detailed

Unlike westerner beautified figures, the portraits of South Korean ancestors accurately depicted each strand of beard, blemishes, and the burning cheeks, giving the feeling of being face to face with a real person. This is because this painting style clearly represents the idea that if even one strand is rendered differently, the portrait fails to accurately describe that person, which is the belief of Eastern culture.

A portrait in almost real life shows what diseases the people had and how they hovered between life and death. Looking at





▲ Portraits of Joseon Dynasty were depicted with age spots, freckles, and acne that can be seen at present.

the portrait of O Myeong-hang, a literatus of the late Joseon Dynasty,\* people can see he had a pitted face. This can be inferred as smallpox, which was the leading cause of death in the late Joseon Dynasty. The smallpox leaves a scar that lasts a lifetime as blisters and scabs fall off. In addition, O Myeong-hang's complexion is very dark. Dermatologist Lee Sung-nak diagnosed that it may be due to black jaundice,\*

a terminal symptom of hepatic cirrhosis,\* in the "Study of Skin Manifestation in Portraits during the Joseon Dynasty of Korea" published in 2014.

Frankly portraying skin diseases that people want to hide if possible started with Confucianism,\* which is based on filial piety towards parents and respect. The Confucian scriptures, "Yegi," states that the ancestral rites are the basis of all teachings. It is said that ancestral rites create filial piety and stabilize a country. Therefore, people in the Joseon Dynasty enshrined the royal ancestral tablet in Jongmyo Shrine and held ancestral rites for the saints at the shrine, using the portraits. The portraits used in the ancestral rites were recognized as the ancestors themselves, not just pictures of the figures. In other words, portraits served as a shamanistic medium in that they were connected to descendants. Such realistic and specific portraits were a medium for acquiring the real appearance of a person and as religious objects calling the spirits of ancestors.

\*Joseon Dynasty: The Joseon Dynasty lasted 518 years with 27 Kings. After Yi Seong-gye collapsed in Goryeo, he established Joseon and became the first King Taejo.

\*Jaundice: The level of bilirubin in the blood is increased, deposited on the skin and colored yellow.

\*Hepatic cirrhosis: A disease in which the liver gradually hardens due to continuous hepatocyte damage.

\*Confucianism: The ruling ideas of the Joseon Dynasty were that loving others and behaving benevolently are the beginning of morality.

### Revealing Personality and Social Roles

A portrait could not be called perfect just by accurately describing the appearance of a figure. Because of this, the most important value in portraits of the East was "Jeonshinsajo."



▲ The king of Joseon ordered "Dohwaseo," a government office for painting, to paint a portrait of loyal officials as a gift.

This means that it is important not only to reproduce the figure, but also to draw the spirit, as if the person is breathing.

The portrait of King Taejo, the first king of Joseon, shows him sitting on a throne looking forward, wearing a blue "Gonryongpo"\* with an "Ikseongwan," a hat worn at work. Even at a glance, he is tall and both ears are large, so the authority and dignity of the founder stands out. King Taejo is said to have had an imposing appearance and to have been good at martial arts, indicating that the portrait matches his actuality. Another portrait of Gang No, the great-grandson of Kang Se-hwang, a leading painter in the late Joseon Dynasty, shows him with wrinkled forehead and stubborn-looking sharp expression, which embodies veteran politicians. Kim Woolim, a curator at the National Museum of Korea, said, "It reached the 'Jeonshinsajo' perfectly, the highest level in Joseon portraits."

Why did the Joseon era artists paint portraits with the value of "Jeonshinsajo?" Joseon emphasized the social role rather than individuality. Based on Confucian ideas, Eastern cultures promote group harmony and stability, taking care of others before oneself and taking actions depending on the situation and who they are with. Chung Doo-hee, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art Conservation at Yeungnam University, said, "The portraits feature Chinese carpets in the background. Over time, the carpets were replaced with rush mats. This uniformity seems to emphasize the social role or social status of the subject, rather than their individual personality." In the West, they painted the background elements like Napoleon fighting in the war, while the East rather focused on simplifying the background and expressing the inner depth of the subject.

\*Gonryongpo: A cloth that the King wears at work embroidered with dragon patterns on the chest, back, and both shoulders. Although it is not clear exactly why only

King Taejo's "Gonryongpo" is blue, it is speculated that blue was revered during the Goryeo Dynasty.

### The Use of Lines and "Baechae"

Looking at the royal portrait of the 21st King Yeongjo, the winding mustache and beard, raised eyes, and sharp nose lines are expressed in detail, making him seem alive. This is because the "Seonmyo" method, which describes in meticulous details of features, wrinkles, and blood vessels, was used in Joseon. In addition, the "Seonmyo" method also depicted characters with the light and shade or thickness of lines. According to Assistant Professor Chung in "A Study of the Techniques Used in the Portrait of King Yeongjo" (2016), "The description of the eyebrows and beard of King Yeongjo seems to show gray-hair by inserting a white line between the black lines."


In order to make the lines stand out, the use of "Baechae" is essential. The West used thick paper, but the East used silk for portraits. A unique painting technique found in Eastern portraits, "Baechae" involves drawing a sketch on the front

of translucent silk and painting the background color based on the sketch. Assistant Professor Chung said, "the lines are painted on the front, and most of the color is put behind them. This keeps the color from obscuring the lines, so the lines stand out very distinctly." After the "Baechae," "Jeonchae," a thin layer of coloring of the front of the silk, is added, making both "Jeonchae" and "Baechae" colors together. This creates both subdued and vivid colors that would not be achievable with only one layer of pigment. In "A Study on the Production Techniques of Goryeo Buddhist Painting: Focusing on the Dyeing and Baechae Method" (1994) of Lee Tae-ho, Endowed-Chair Professor of the Department of Art and History in the Graduate School at Myongji University, "'Baechae' is a reflection of oriental painting theory which values the inner aspect and is an appropriate method for achieving 'Jeonshinsajo' that captures looks, as well as the spirit of the character." In summary, portraits of the Joseon Dynasty are evaluated worldwide as honest portraits that have not been beautified or idolized, expressing the depth of the person with elaborate lines and layers of colors.



©Chung Doo-hee

▲ It is necessary to paint the backside and front of silk in turn and draw lines on the front for the light and shade. This process helps to hide brushstrokes.

Portraits from the East and the West differed in whether they focused on individual personality or social roles, whether they emphasized light or line, and how sharply they depicted reality. However, portraits of both the East and the West include the ups and downs of someone's life. The number of young people wanting to record themselves is increasing. In addition, they use an AI application to create avatars of themselves, which can be seen as creating another self in social media. Although the form and production method of portraits are different in the past and the present, it would be the same to record one's own image that they want to leave in someone's memory or remember for themselves. What kind of person do readers want to be remembered as and in what way do readers want to leave their memory behind? 

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# Art Is More Than Able to the Disabled



©Stopgap Dance Company

By **Park Gyeong-jin**

*Staff Reporter of Culture Section*

“**A**rtists with disabilities shall be guaranteed opportunities to engage and participate in artistic activities according to their respective abilities and will.” This is an excerpt from the Act on The Support For Cultural And Artistic Activities Of Artists With Disabilities legislated by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of South Korea. Are disabled artists actually free to do artistic activities as stipulated in the law above? Disability should not be an obstacle to artistic activities beyond individual identities. However, the difficulties disabled artists suffer are still not improving. The opportunities to participate in artworks with other artists are not nearly enough, and the income from them is so low that they cannot maintain their art activities and make a living at all despite several efforts by the government to encourage their creative activities. Discrimination that deeply penetrates society can be seen through the lack of recognition and facilities for the disabled and employment instability. Also, their creative activities are deterred by such discrimination. The majority of people do not have enough interest to recognize these social and economic limitations. The Argus hopes that art society will not only examine the difficulties and causes of disabled artists but also seek new solutions.

### Before Reading

The term “artist with a disability” refers to those who are engaged in cultural and artistic activities as defined in Article 2 (1) 1 of the Culture and Arts Promotion Act for business purposes, as prescribed by presidential decree among those who hold a registration certificate for a person with disabilities issued under Article 32 of the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities or who are determined to be entitled to a disability rating classified under Article 6-4 of the Act on the Honorable Treatment of and Support for Persons of Distinguished Service to the State.

### Problems



#### Different Perspective for Artists with Disabilities

Although disabled artists have started to work in diverse art fields, the discriminative recognition of them remains unchanged. In order to understand the fundamental issue of discrimination, it is necessary to know how fellow artists who work together and the public who enjoy their artworks perceive disabled artists. The unfortunate thing is that both fellow artists and the public think of the art activities of the disabled differently from the general art range.

The work of disabled artists is appreciated with compassionate eyes, not for the work itself. Because cooperation with disabled artist is recognized as help or volunteering, even their work is undervalued. Ok Hye-Sook, Ph.D. of Special Education, confirms this in her research, which is about artists in the same industry perceiving disabled artists as equal artists only after watching their performance in person. “The prejudice that works of disabled artists will be of low quality is dominant, but once you appreciate their works, I am sure you will be surprised by their amazing abilities.” This shows the widespread opinion of fellow artists not thinking of the disabled with great artistic ability as professional artists. In other words, the appreciation of their works is lacking. The public also does not have much experience of appreciating their art. According to the “2021 Investigation of the Actual Conditions of Cultural and Artistic Activities of Artists with Disabilities (2021 investigation of disabled artists)” by MCST, 7.9 percent of disabled artists cited a “Lack of audience” as the most

difficult thing while doing art activities. This implies the low interest of and less exposure to the public. The social atmosphere in which disabled artists’ work as a subculture reduces their opportunities to enter the mainstream and limits the enjoyment of their work. If the recognition for disabled artists does not improve, their creations will be excluded from our society.

#### Economic Difficulties to Maintain Both “Living” and “Art Work”

The income of disabled artists is too small to maintain their livelihood while continuing their creative activities. Their artistic income is just 180,000 won (US\$143.88) per month even though 62.2 percent of disabled artists work on their art full time. This is over three times lower than that of non-disabled artists. The reason why disabled artists have no choice but to do art full time is that other jobs are not available either. It is impossible for them to have sufficient creative funds in a situation of suffering to make a living. Not only materials and facilities for creating, but also the cost of living during the creation period is a heavy burden. In the 2021 investigation of disabled artists, 70.5 percent of disabled artists strongly called for the “Expansion of creative funds and benefits.” Thus, their economic difficulties can never be overlooked.

To address this situation, the government enforced the Act on The Support for Cultural and Artistic Activities of Artists with Disabilities on December 10, 2020, and began to support them with creative funds. However, in the 2021 survey, disabled artists still wanted the expansion of funds the most – and at a rate 4 percentage points higher to the survey in



2018. This shows that a simple budget increase cannot solve the fundamental problem at all. The method of benefiting them has to be changed reasonably to divide the large budget equally. Also, it is necessary to figure out the institutional problem of making disabled artists give up their artwork due to their low income and ultimately solve the economic difficulties.

### Nowhere to Create, Nowhere to Exhibit?

Art acquires meaning when it is created and appreciated by others. However, disabled artists are suffering from the lack of basic facilities for these two stages. According to the 2021 investigation of disabled artists, they lack: “Facilities for presenting/exhibiting/performing,” “Space for practicing and creating,” and “Facilities for disabled artists.”

Bang Gui-hee, President of the Korea Disabled Artist Association, revealed that there is indeed a shortage of creative facilities. In particular, sometimes they borrow space from a church because they need a big, soundproof space for practicing music and dancing. But they are forced to vacate the place whenever when there is a church event. Also, she adds, “In fact, creating or practicing at home is impossible. It is important to reserve and operate the spaces with the government’s support,” while emphasizing the necessity of a practicing space and the role of the state. Currently, the creative facilities for disabled artists are inferior. The same is true of space for exhibiting creations. In President Bang’s words, “There was a case in which the director of a theater demanded a disabled dancer who uses a wheelchair to spread a mat on the stage because he was worried that the floor could be damaged. However, as it is a wheelchair-based dance performance, the mat can make the performance low quality.” This shows that it is difficult to rent a place and that they cannot present their work under desirable conditions. Creating great works is useless if there are no place to present them to the public. Disabled artists have to gain experience through enough opportunities. To improve the quality of artwork and expand the audiences, facilities that can accommodate the special needs of disabled artists are urgently needed.

## Causes



### Focus on the Artist, Not on the Work

If you know of a disabled artist, think about whether their work or the fact that the artist is disabled is foremost in your mind. The art activities of the disabled are seen as a hobby, not a profession, and their creations are regarded as just the products of going far beyond their various limitations. The result of related research can be confirmed in Park Hye-shin’s report, “The Recognition of the Disabled Artist (2010).” Even people who appreciate the same performance are more interested and moved when they recognize that the artist is disabled, but they evaluate the expertise of that artist as very low. The compassionate eyes for the disabled devalue their artistic value and ability while not recognizing disabled artists as professional artists.

This perception is also revealed in the support policy of the government. The actual condition survey of the disabled and support policy is focused on consuming the artwork already created rather than on the establishment of disabled artists. However, excluding activities as creators makes it more uncommon for the disabled to have art as their main job. Accordingly, the perception that disabled artists are not professionals is strengthened, and their works lose competitiveness in the art market. When a similar perspective is dominant, disabled artists cannot be nurtured no matter how great their works are. This is because the values of their works are estimated within the narrow range of so-called “disability art.” Of course, the identity of disability influences the creation a lot as there is “disability art” that reflects the experiences of disability. However, when disability becomes the standard of limiting the possibility of creation beyond the character of one person, the wrong perception of works and artists is formed.

### Empty Subsidy Policy

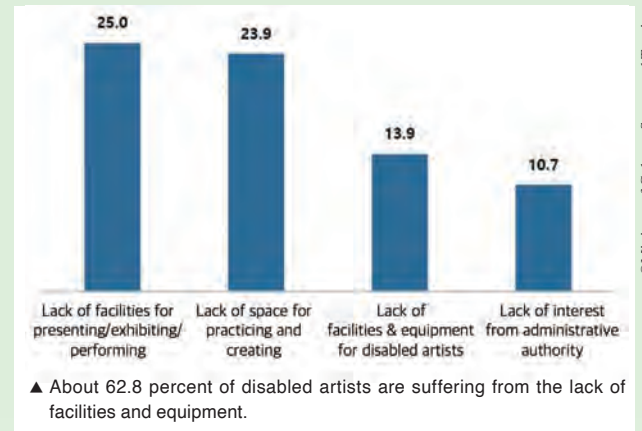
Many disabled artists cannot receive subsidies due to a lack of information on creative grants. 60.3 percent of total disabled artists are intellectually and physically disabled, and 86.7 percent of disabled artists over 60 work in creative fields

that need subsidies. However, it is difficult for those with intellectual disabilities and elderly people to find information about applying for creative grants. This shows that there are not enough helpful procedures promoted by the government considering the features of the disabled artist. Information vulnerabilities are not caused only by features of disability. According to the Survey and Analysis of the Actual Conditions of Cultural and Artistic Activities of Artists with Disabilities in 2021, sometimes it is difficult to confirm the required documentation and to submit it by the application deadline even if they ask the person in charge about it.

The economic difficulties of disabled artists cause them to give up art activities completely before receiving creative grants. If there is any creative income, even if it is small, their living allowance is reduced, so they may choose to decrease their creative activities themselves. According to a 2020 survey of the disabled, 28 percent of the disabled are recipients of basic living assistance. Considering this, they should be allowed to keep working in artistic fields by receiving both creative grants and a living allowance at the same time. But in reality, they have to choose only one. President Bang claims that they have no choice but to give up their creative funds: “Creative income is very irregular and low. Besides, their living allowance is reduced due to the creative income, so then their economic independence and development are hindered by the government.” She adds, “They usually don’t receive the creative income because once the living allowance is decreased, it’s hard to get it restored.” Because the government did not consider the complex income structure of disabled artists, an institutional contradiction is formed. It may be assumed that the income of disabled artists becomes stable when only thinking of beginning a creative grant system, but there is a weak point in the system. The benefit of the policy called “Preparation of Preferential Purchase Measures for the Creation of Disabled Artists,” which will begin on March 28, 2023, has to be shared with someone in need by considering reasonable objects and methods.

### An Artist Who Cannot Go on Stage

There are lots of things for disabled artists to consider when



renting facilities, especially when their disabilities are a physical handicap. They have to move from their house to the facility without difficulty and be able to get around in the facility freely. But realistically, it is hard to find a means of transportation guaranteeing a right of mobility and a space perfectly suitable for the disabled. The gate has to be wheelchair friendly, automatic door/parking space/toilet must be available, and stages have to be designed for the disabled. Notably, some aisles for audiences are constructed well, but the stage aisle constructed for performers with a disability is rare.

President Bang mentions the practical difficulties a disabled artist has to suffer and says, “The aisle from the stage to the toilet is inferior. Thus, it is difficult to focus on the performance because there are many facilities that do not meet the basic needs for the disabled artist.” In the 2021 investigation of disabled artists, “Installation of automatic door that wheelchair is possible to pass” and “Installation of seats, the stage that the disabled can use” recorded low scores of 48.8 and 42.4 each. The category of stages that artists have to use practically is poor, and this is only considering public facilities. The problems are more serious when it comes to private facilities, as sustainable management is difficult. However, it is difficult to use public facilities that can accommodate the disabled, and using them at low cost requires a complicated process with a high competition rate. In circumstances where sometimes they are rejected because of disability, the fact that other facilities do not have facilities for the disabled increases their difficulty. Locating a rental facility that can accept the disabled is like finding a needle in a haystack.





### Creating Together: “Inclusive Arts”



▲ According to Stopgap Dance Company, this company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

Not dividing the art world based on ability is the first step to recognizing the disabled and non-disabled artists in the same role. It is necessary to get rid of that barrier and pursue inclusive arts undergoing the procedure of creating. Stopgap Dance Company is a representative example of this. The British Council explains it as an art community that values a pioneering spirit and is committed to making discoveries about integrating disabled and non-disabled people through dance. In Stopgap’s dance video “Artificial Things,” dancer Chris, who has Down syndrome, keeps in step with the non-disabled dancer. One dancer with no legs does the same movement as a non-disabled dancer with just the power of two arms, and another dancer riding a wheelchair runs fast and hangs upside down. Being disabled or non-disabled is not an issue there. The ultimate goal is admitting their differences and maintaining inclusion so that all possibilities are open.

However, to realize inclusive arts, the government’s support system is very significant along with the will of fellow artists. Ph.D. Ok talks about the inclusive arts system of the United Kingdom compared with South Korea, noting that “The U.K. supports it as a dimension of the nation from the beginning of establishing a theater company by structuring it as a space that disabled and non-disabled artists can work in together.” She also notes that “Creators usually stay up all night while cooperating, so a disabled artist who receives an assistant’s

help usually has to compromise on the schedule according to their assistant’s availability. The U.K. prevents such trouble in advance by employing the assistant 24 hours a day or making a compromise on the schedule directly.” Rather than avoiding cooperation because of worries about problems that may arise, enough data of inclusive art has to be considered when designing the procedures. The cooperation between disabled and non-disabled artists has to be perceived as an extremely normal situation by the public through conducting inclusive arts actively.

### Opportunities for Flexible Income-Generating

Considering the irregular income structure, extra income has to be approved. President Bang says, “If they give up their creation income to maintain their living allowance, the productive mind of working will be reduced.” Also, the nation can collect more taxes when approving extra income, so it corresponds to interests. President Bang discusses the case in which all disability welfare received was stopped suddenly when the book written by the disabled artist Paul K. Longmore became a bestseller and received a copyright fee. He needed constant support because he was a severely disabled person, but the government stopped all services after he received a creative income one time. Paul was resentful and protested by piling up his books and setting fire to them in front of the federal government. After this protest, the Framework Act on Social Security was changed, and the U.K. started to approve the extra income. Like this, allowing disabled artists to earn money by working and being approved for extra income is the first step to breaking down the economic limitation of their creative activities.

President Bang proposes a new method by which disabled artists can create income. It involves making a shopping site selling the creations of disabled artists by establishing an Information System for Cultural and Artistic Activities of artists with disabilities. The government is already operating the shopping site “Ggumdre,” selling products made by severely disabled people. On March 28, 2021, the policy “Preparation of Preferential Purchase Measures for the Creation of Disabled Artists” was enacted for the creation of disabled artists to be purchased priorly by a public institution

and national and local public entities. This can solve the problems of only the works of a large organization or famous artist being sold by selling items openly online. The policy applicable only in public institutions can be expanded to the public and a wide range of consumers too. In this way, an income for disabled artists is possible through art activities. Even though the government designated a lot of money for directly paying a living allowance or for creative grants, constant income and quality development can be realized by encouraging their art activities through increasing creative income.

### Facilities Pursuing Practical Convenience for the Disabled




▲ I-eum center, the space for art activities, has a wheelchair passage at the entrance to the building.

There is a law about the enhancement of facilities for the disabled, but most spaces do not follow it. The policy structuring the related facilities by force and inspecting them regularly is needed. In 2015, I-eum Center by Korea Disability Arts & Culture Center was opened in the middle

of Hyehehwa. In I-eum Center, there are spaces possible to create and present as a means of connecting the disabled and non-disabled. In particular, facilities for the disabled are well created and maintained. President Bang who participated in I-eum Center's budget planning heard surprising impressions from users about being comfortable going to the toilet. This is the result of input from the disabled and regular inspections of the center and after being opened.

Big-I built in Osaka, Japan, is also used for cultural and artistic exchange, and it is useful for both the audience and the creator. There are no stairs at the entrance of the hall, and up to 300 wheelchairs can enter. It was designed for comfort, for example, by installing the buttons of vending machine and elevator low and making the material on floors differently so that the blind can recognize obstacles. It is easy to get to Big-I because the building is close to a subway station, and there is a passage between Big-I and the shopping mall, so accessibility to other facilities is good. In particular, Big-I operates accommodation that applies universal design.\* It considers the flow of the assistant to the emergency exit route. This accommodation can solve the problem suffered when a disabled artist living in the countryside visits the cultural facility in the capital area. Big-I was built in 2001. It has been there for 22 years, but the cultural and artistic facilities to accept the disabled are not sufficient. From now on, the limitations that disabled artists feel when using facilities and creating activities must be addressed by increasing the facilities with a universal design like at I-eum Center and Big-I.

\*Universal design: According to the National Library for the Disabled, universal design is also called "design for all" and means to be used comfortably by anyone regardless of age, gender, nationality, and disability.

Art activities of the disabled are a right to be guaranteed, not a luxury. Of course, the way to grow into a professional artist can vary. However, the end result of meeting the audience as an artist should be the same. An artist with a disability is just an artist like any other who loves art and wants to make a living with art. To continue their creative work without any barrier of distinction, the efforts of the government and the interest of the public are desperately necessary. In conclusion, The Argus hopes that the day will soon arrive when careers in art is open to everyone. 

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# There Is No Same Salt Under the Sun

By Lee Jue-hyun

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

The first step to standing on one's own as an adult is setting up one's own table. Food served at the right time, soup to boost the appetite, and side dishes with balanced nutrition and such; nothing can be taken for granted. In addition, more and more people are trying to make their own food due to increasing delivery costs, as well as excessive plastic wastes made from deliveries. When these determined beginners go to the market, they face unexpected difficulties. Obviously, the goal is to buy essential seasonings, but there is a wide variety of salts displayed with different names and prices. Not only beginners but also others have difficulty choosing which salt to buy because they do not know exactly what the differences are. The Argus looks into the manufacturing principles and differences of various kinds of salt.

## Various Types of Salt

### Solar Salt



▲ Solar salt is made from sunlight and seawater in salt field.

Salt is largely divided into types where seawater is used and types obtained from naturally formed salt layers. Solar salt is made from seawater, and it is made through a salt field.\* First, seawater is brought into the reservoir and stored. The stored seawater is then sent to “Nanchi” through a waterway, the first evaporation site. It depends on the production environment, but the seawater evaporates in about a week to make salt water with a salinity of six to eight degrees. This stage of salt water

is sent to the second evaporation site, “Netti.” But what if it rains or snows? There is water storage for this eventuality. Water storage is a roofed saltwater storage warehouse where salt water is stored when it rains or snows, and when the salt concentration reaches 23 to 25 degrees, the water is transferred to the crystallizing pond. There the concentration increases to separate the salt from the water. When the salinity reaches about 27 degrees, salt flowers bloom, which means that salt begins to form little by little at the bottom of the salt field. When salt flowers bloom, salt is collected in about one to four days. The salt made so far is collected with a chisel called “Daepa,” is drained to some extent, and then is transported to the warehouse. Finally, if the salt is aged and the magnesium chloride (coagulant)\* is taken out of the salt, solar salt is made.

Most of the various types of salt in the market are made based on solar salt. When solar salt is heated, it becomes blended salt, or roasted salt when roasted, and bamboo salt when baked in a bamboo barrel. Blended salt, also called “Flower Salt” in South Korea, is much purer than solar salt. A large amount of solar





▲ Solar Salt of South Korea is made going through storage, evaporation site, crystallizing pond, roofed storage, and warehouse. Details differ according to the environment of the salt field.

salt is dissolved in water to remove impurities and heated again to crystallize. The crystal looks like a snow flower, hence the name.

\*Salt field: Seawater is drawn in a salt field that looks like a paddy field to make salt.

\*Magnesium chloride (coagulant): Bitter and salty water melts naturally in damp salt.

### ❄️ Refined Salt

Refined salt contains only sodium chloride made by decomposing seawater using electricity. Sometimes refined salt is considered as a chemically-made salt, but as the name indicates, it is only made by refining and boiling seawater; it is not arbitrarily synthesized or processed. Unlike solar salt produced by evaporating seawater, refined salt is made by filtering seawater through an equipment using an ion-exchange

membrane. The ion-exchange membrane has selective permeability and is used to refine materials. The ion bond between sodium and chlorine is released when sodium chloride is dissolved in water,

and each ion\* is mixed between water molecules. However, seawater contains not only pure sodium chloride but also other minerals, such as magnesium chloride ( $\text{MgCl}_2$ ), calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ), magnesium sulfate ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and calcium sulfate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), or heavy metals and pesticide components. Therefore, only the necessary ingredients should be extracted. In this case, only sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ), which is a cation in seawater, and chlorine ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ), an anion, are selectively transmitted using an ion exchange membrane. The obtained components are crystallized using high pressure steam and made into salt. Since the entire process of manufacturing refined salt is carried

out by an automated production system that makes mass production possible, refined salt is frequently used in the food industry as for baking or making ramen.

\*Ion: An atom with a positive or negative charge.

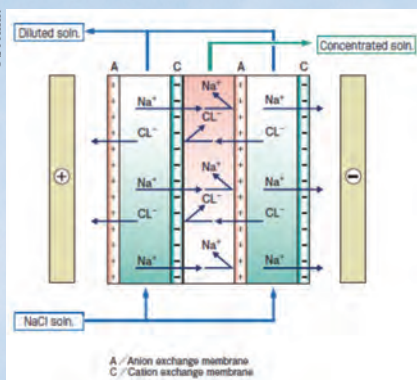
### ❄️ Rock Salt

Like Himalayan pink salt, which has recently emerged as a trendy food ingredient, salt crystals dug out of natural rocks are processed to make rock salt. In South Korea, rock salt is quite unfamiliar, as solar salt or refined salt production is much more common, but rock salt has been a source of salt since the Iron Age in Europe and a major source of salt accounting for about 61 percent of the total production as of 2017. As the topography changes due to tectonic forces where seawater or salt lakes were located a long time ago, only sodium chloride remains and hardens like a rock. As for rock salt, sodium chloride alone accounts for 98 to 99 percent, so it is common for it to have little mineral content. However, Himalayan salt is different. Like other rock salts, the salt layer was formed by collisions between the Indian and Eurasian plates where there was previously a sea, but salts here have been found to contain minerals.

In its natural state, salt is colorless, but different colors of rock salt are produced depending on the mineral composition process. There are various colors such as white, pink, and orange, and the colors appear different due to impurities flying into the crystal. Red rock salts, such as Himalayan pink salts, show a darker red as the iron content increases. Black salt can be seen in Cyprus and Hawaii and is created by contact with volcanic charcoal and underground activated carbon. As the color changes depending on the background of the generation, the value varies in accordance with the degree of rarity or difficulty of generation. One of the rare colors is blue, a Persian blue salt found in Iran's Elburz Mountains. It is one of the best



▲ Himalayan pink salt is currently the most used rock salt. Various rock salts with colors are used not only for seasoning but decoration too.



▲ Ion-exchange membrane refines materials by its selective permeability of cation and anion.



## Caduceus

colored salts because it has been buried in the ground for over 1,000 years and is made by weathering the high pressure of the mountain range. The blue light of the Persian blue salt is by a potassium mineral called Sylvinite and magnesium and, in addition to this, each crystal reflects light and makes the salt look blue like a glacier. As such, there are countless gifts from the Earth, and rock salt is one of them.

©Fair Trade Korea blog



©Alibaba

▲ Black salt from volcano of Hawaii and blue salt of Persia have rare colors. Salts with different colors play an indispensable role in dishes on the table.

## Do Not Get Salt Wrong!

### ❄️ Is Solar Salt Healthy?

People may have heard at least once that it is best to use solar salt among the various salts. This is based on the large amount of mineral content contained in solar salt. Minerals generally refer to metal cations that make minerals such as magnesium and potassium and are considered as essential nutrients like vitamins because they contribute to metabolic control. However, magnesium chloride (coagulant) in solar salt must be removed to reduce the bitter taste and improve the quality during the aging process. The problem is that the minerals also escape as the magnesium chloride is removed, leaving only sodium chloride. Lee Deok-hwan, Professor of Chemistry at Sogang University, explained in Donga Science, “The advantage of solar salt is abundant minerals, and in fact, the well-aged salt is no different from refined salt because all minerals are drained during the aging process.” On the other hand, Ham Kyung-sik, Professor of Solar Salt Research Center at Mokpo National University, said, “The longer the aging period, the more minerals are removed from solar salt. However, when tracking the aging period up to four years, magnesium chloride rarely decreases after the second year. In addition, salt produces harmful free oxygen.\* But unlike other salts with less minerals, solar salt produces less harmful free oxygen when the minerals decrease.”

Furthermore, it is pointed out that harmful substances

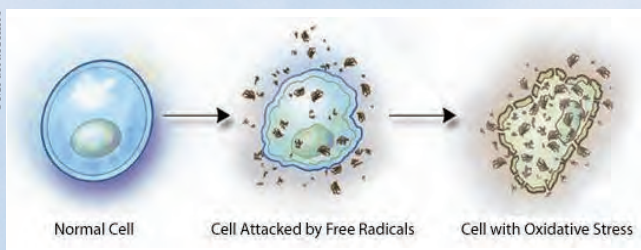


©Ycolumul blog

▲ The early method of producing solar salt using polyvinyl chloride runs the risk of containing microplastics or endocrine disruptors.

are generated from solar salt. This is due to the so-called “Janpanyeom,” which uses seawater and sunlight to produce solar salt by laying a black plastic pad on the bottom of the salt field. This method has been used frequently since the production of solar salt was introduced to South Korea in the 1980s due to its low maintenance costs. However, in the process of collecting salt, the pad made of polymer substances\* such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) causes trouble with microplastics or endocrine disruptors caused by vinyl fragments flowing into salt. Phthalates from Janpanyeom are also called “quiet killers” and can cause various hormonal abnormalities if they are accumulated in the body. For this reason, solar salt fields in South Korea are replacing outdated salt field facilities with eco-friendly ones such as hygienic polyethylene (PE), plates made by tramping mud, or baked tiles. However, Professor Lee points out, “Even if it is replaced with an eco-friendly pad, the soil under the pad will be sealed and rotted, and the pad may be damaged in the process of scratching the salt, so the problem will remain.” On the other hand, the position of the solar salt production site is different. Professor Ham explains, “The problem of substances falling off from the pad occurs when it is about 10 years old. However, when using the pad, the surface becomes uneven due to the scratching process, and the

©MedicalTimes



▲ Free oxygen causes problems affecting normal cells inside the body.



salt crystals are not well made, so the pan should be replaced every five years.” He adds that roasting solar salt does not cause a problem because all microplastics disappear. It is true that South Korea solar salt has a relatively high potassium content compared to other production areas, but it is necessary to carefully examine the environment to find absolutely good salt.

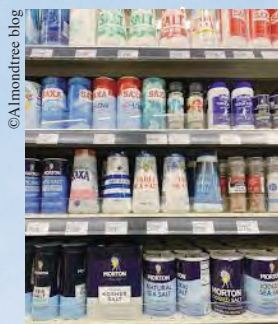


▲ One of the most famous salt fields in South Korea, “Tae-Pyung Salt Farm,” is changing facilities with eco-friendly ones.

\*Free oxygen: Free oxygen is produced from somatic cells and is more unstable than ordinary oxygen, so it has high reactivity.

\*Polymer substance: Represented by plastic and frequently used in everyday life but causes environmental problems during disposal.

### ❄️ Would Less Salty Be Better?



▲ Village Grocer in Malaysia shows the diversity of salt.

There are various salts, but the salinity of each salt is different. Is salt with low salinity a good choice? Not necessarily. Salt is considered to be of higher quality when it has a higher salinity and less moisture. In the case of solar salt, it has higher moisture content and relatively low salinity of about 80 percent. Instead, it contains plenty of healthy minerals such as

magnesium, potassium, zinc, calcium, and iron. Compared to blended salt or refined salt, in which sodium chloride is 98 to 99 percent of the total ingredients, solar salt contains 10 to 20

percent moisture. That is why solar salt is less salty than other salts. However, it is not good that solar salt has a lower salinity than others because it is the amount of sodium chloride that makes it salty. In the end, the low salinity means that there are many impurities, including moisture, and that more solar salt must be added to season food. As such, the salty flavor is different for each salt, lending each type for different uses in everyday life. Solar salt is used to make kimchi, soy sauce, and soybean paste, but it is not suitable for seasoning dishes due to its quite unique dry and bitter taste. On the other hand, blended salt is whiter than solar salt and has smaller particles, which makes it easy to be dissolved. Thus, it is used as a basic ingredient in various dishes such as soups or stews and seasoned vegetables.

It is true that salt intake should be reduced due to the high use of sodium at the tables of modern people. However, it is dangerous not to eat salt at all. Salt is involved in important functions in the body, such as the control of osmotic pressure in the body, absorption of nutrients, and signal transmission of nerve cells. The minimum amount of salt required for humans is 0.5 to 1.0 grams (200 to 400 mg sodium), which is very small, but it is a must-have nutrient. In addition, salt is not necessarily only used for a salty taste. If someone has tried tomatoes with salt at least once, he would find out that salt maximizes sweetness. “Science,” one of the world’s three major science journals, said that among taste cells, there is a protein called SGLT1, which uses sodium to transport glucose to cells that respond to sweetness. Then, salt activates sweetness faster. For this reason, so-called sweet and salty combinations, including salt caramel, are popular.



©Danawa

There must have been a time when looking at the various salts and thought, “Isn’t just the name slightly different and in the end, all of them are similar?” However, each salt is gained in a different way, has a different color, and is used for a specific purpose. Solar salt is not necessarily healthy, and using salt that does not taste very salty does not reduce sodium intake. All the delicious foods have been salted with each suitable type. Salzburg of Austria, whose name comes from salt, even had a war against Germany over the salt mountains in the 17th century. But today salt is too common that its importance is easily forgotten. The Argus hopes that readers will understand salt better. 📖

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# Mask Fishers Are **INNOCENT** : The Underlying Psychology of Mask Fishing

By Kim Su-yeon

*Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section*

**H**ave you ever been surprised by someone's face when they removed their mask? This phenomenon is referred to as "mask fishing." The term "mask fishing" is a variation of "catfishing," which describes those who look different online and trick others to think that they are more attractive online than offline. When someone looks completely different from what an observer had initially thought, the phrase "That person deluded me!" pops into their mind. However, does the person wearing the mask really have the intention to deceive? Mask fishing is a psychological phenomenon occurring in an observer's brain, which is responsible for the illusion. The term "mask fisher" can be harmful in that it targets the person wearing the mask to follow the quarantine rules. The Argus attempts to analyze the cognitive causes of mask fishing and to criticize Korean society which coined the word "Magikkun," based on two books, "Visual Intelligence" and "Who is Korean?"

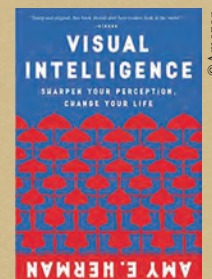
## Before reading

\*Mask fisher: A newly-coined phrase in the Era of the Covid-19 pandemic, same with "Magikkun" in Korean, which refers to a person who has a big difference in facial appearance before and after mask removal. The term points out someone as a fraud or assailant who disappointed an observer with an unexpected appearance, which possibly gives an emotional wound to him or her.

## 1. How Does the Mask Fishing Phenomenon Occur?

### [Book 1]

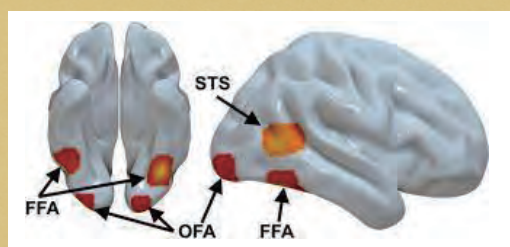
“Visual Intelligence” by Amy E. Herman (2016) analyzes how several factors such as feeling, cognitive bias, and brain function concern the way one’s eyes see things. During the COVID-19 pandemic, people’s faces have been hidden by their masks. However, their eyes “see” through masks and imagine the hidden faces as they like. Thereafter, the exposure to each other’s true facial appearance may leave people in a state of shock. Why does such a strange situation happen? “Visual Intelligence” sheds light on this question. Before facing each other’s appearance without masks in the classroom this March, The Argus suggests some cognitive causes of mask fishing.



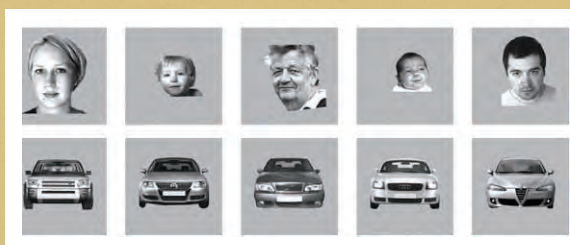
### 1) Mask That Disturbs the Brain Process: How Does the Brain Recognize Faces?

How does the human brain recognize faces? Amy E. Herman, the author of “Visual Intelligence,” said, “Human beings see things through the brain, not eyes.” In other words, eyes are closely connected to the brain. When a person stares at something, the light reflected from the object passes through the pupil and reaches the retina, the back of the eyeball. Then the nerve cells in the retina change the light into electric patterns, which are finally transmitted to the brain by optic nerves. In this way, a series of visual processing occurs.

As eyes are closely connected to the brain, the brain recognizes faces. Face recognition is a holistic process that integrates various information about facial structure, expression, and sentiments. Therefore, several brain areas are involved in the facial recognition process. Three of them are Occipital Face Area (OFA), Fusiform Face Area (FFA), and Superior Temporal Sulcus (STS). OFA processes the components of facial structure such as eyes, nose, and mouth. FFA, a core processing area, integrates several facial components and identifies a person’s face. STS processes social information such as facial expressions. When facing another person, people automatically stare at his or her eyes and mouth at first glance. This is because FFA activates when people see someone else’s face. FFA, located in the temporal lobe, recognizes faces by confirming the presence of eyes and mouth. The reason why people often associate the front of the car with a human face is that FFA recognizes each of the headlights and air intake as a human being’s eyes and mouth.



▲ FFA, OFA, and STS are areas of the brain which take charge of face recognition.



▲ People tend to associate cars with human faces.

However, the mask disturbs the facial recognition process by covering the mouth. Jung Su-keun, a psychology professor at Chungbuk National University, says, “The brain recognizes faces in an integrated form of facial components.” In other words, the brain integrates the upper part and lower part of the face, finally recognizing them as “a face.” Professor Jung adds, “A mask covers the lower part of the face, finally disturbing the holistic processing of the brain’s face recognition.” Similarly, Kim Young-seo, a neurology professor at Hanyang University Hospital, explains that “With mask wearing, the brain recognizes one’s face only with eyes. Due to the lack of facial information, the brain can form new ideas about the lower face.” One’s face involves several pieces of information regarding his or her age, gender, and image. However, with a mask covering the lower face, people lack information to identify the other person.



### 2) Uncertainty Avoidance & the Brain's Predictive Function: Why Do People Imagine and Become Disappointed?

As masks restrict access to facial information of another person, it is hard for people to figure out basic social information about him or her when making relationships. In other words, there is a higher uncertainty between the two persons. However, according to Herman, human beings tend to avoid uncertainty and rather prefer completion. Some psychologists refer to this tendency as “incomplete complex.” People can easily experience their incomplete complex when they appreciate unfinished artworks. When they face figures with no head or only with their left hand, people feel uneasy and uncomfortable. Therefore, if a person lacks information about the surrounding situation, his or her brain automatically supplements the information. In this regard, Israeli cognitive psychologist Amos Tversky once said, “In high-uncertainty situations, the brain quickly reorganizes the general conditions in order to help humans to clearly figure out situations and to determine how to behave or respond.” As the brain fills in the blanks and reorganizes the circumstances, people can manage to read a sentence with jumbled words or missing consonants and vowels.



▲ No face in an unfinished artwork makes people feel uncomfortable.

This phenomenon can be associated with the situation in which the observer's brain automatically imagines the lower part of the face of the other person covered with a mask. As Professor Jung explains, “The brain automatically predicts the empty part and fills in the blank when it interprets visual information. With a mask covering the lower face, the brain automatically fills the part of the face with an average one.” He adds: “As an observer's brain automatically fills the hidden face with an average face, the other person can be judged to be more attractive with a mask on.” In other words, when the other person's lower face with mask removal falls short of the observer's expectations, the lower face automatically filled by the observer's brain can be considered as more attractive. In this way, due to the brain's prediction, there is a significant gap between the observer's imagination and the other's true facial appearance. Thus, once the observer recognizes the gap, he or she is disappointed.

### 3) Cognitive Dissonance & Defense Mechanism: Why Is It Hard to Say “I Stand Corrected?”

When someone looks completely different from what an observer had initially thought, why do people blame them and point them out as a “fraud” rather than admitting their misunderstanding? Herman notes that “Human being's brain tries to find something easy, while it tries to extrude things that make him or her uncomfortable,” will lead us to the answer. Her words can be linked with two psychological phenomena: “cognitive dissonance,” which makes people uncomfortable, and a “defense mechanism” exercised unconsciously to push out uneasy feelings. Cognitive dissonance is a psychological phenomenon in which a person feels uneasy when there is a discrepancy between what one sees and what one believes. In other words, it is hard for an ordinary person to say “I stand corrected” even after he or she recognizes that their thoughts or behaviors are wrong. They rather want to escape from the awkward situation. Therefore, the defense mechanism is activated and drives out uncomfortable feelings. Regarding this, “Analysis of Freudianism & Individual Psychology of Adler” explains as follows: defense mechanism, systematized by Anna Freud, refers to a psychological mechanism which removes uneasiness in an unreasonable way by denying or distorting reality. Rationalism is a defense mechanism in which one tries to stay in a state of emotional stability by making an excuse instead of admitting one's fault. Through rationalism, people denounce the things that make them feel uncomfortable.

When there is a big discrepancy between an observer's prediction and another's face revealed, the observer feels uncomfortable due to cognitive dissonance. In order to remove the awkward feeling, the observer shifts responsibility to the person whose face was hidden behind a mask, accusing them of being a “mask fisher.” A thought like “That person deluded me with mask wearing!” leads to accusatory language. Then the observer rationalizes the usage of the term, considering the mask-wearing person as an assailant who caused them harm through deception.



## 2. Why Is the Term “Mask Fisher” Problematic?

### [Book 2]

“Who is Korean? (2013)” written by Kim Mun-Jo and 38 experts, analyzes characteristics of Korean society such as lookism and collectivism. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, “Lookism,” a deeply rooted practice of Korean society, has continued in a new form. People often body shame others by comparing his or her true appearance with a masked face. Do people really have ethical eyes? The Argus associates the background of the newly-coined term “Magikkun,” synonymous with “mask fisher,” with the dark side of Korean society, and presents a desirable attitude towards the “mask fishing” phenomenon.



### 1) Sense of Shame: Can One's Eyes Injure Someone Else?

When someone looks completely different from what an observer had initially thought, people steal a glance or gaze at him or her with surprise. However, they hardly notice that a glance can make someone else feel belittled. The video titled “The Secret of Teenagers Who Hesitate to Remove Masks,” uploaded on the Korean YouTube channel “Oh My School,” shows one of the guests saying, “Many students are afraid of taking off their masks in front of their friends. Some of them even do not eat lunch in the cafeteria because they are ashamed to reveal their faces.” In other words, they are afraid of getting emotionally hurt from others’ eyes when they take off their mask. Then why do people feel shame when others stare at them?

Psychiatrist Alfred Adler once said: “Sense of shame occurs in interpersonal relationships. If a person lives alone, he or she will not experience the feeling of shame. Once a person notices that someone stares at him or her, he or she begins to feel shame.” According to “The Power of Seeing,” shame is a feeling of discomfort and humiliation that human beings experience in the gaze of others. Philosophy explains that the reason why humans feel shame in the gaze of others is that the observed person becomes a “thing” in front of others’ eyes. In other words, when person A stares at person B, A is positioned as a “subject” while B is positioned as an “object.” Then the relationship between person A and B becomes hierarchical. A’s gaze can arbitrarily define B’s identity and disrupt B’s self-definition. In this way, a person is degraded to “stuff” in the gaze of others, eventually making the person feel shame.

When there is a big discrepancy between an observer’s prediction and someone’s true facial appearance with mask removal, people cast a glance at his or her face with disappointment. This can be considered “gaze violence.” Gaze violence refers to the act of causing another person emotional pain by casting hostile eyes on him or her. People especially tend to stare at someone who is considered to be “heterogeneous,” but that kind of penetrating stare can make them feel shame. People should be aware that hostile glances toward those who are considered to be “mask fishers” is a type of violence.

### 2) Mind of Hatred: Why Do People Form Groups?

A person differentiates the “in-group” to which he or she belongs from the “out-group” that he or she does not belong to. The term “mask fishing” comes from the idea that “that person belongs to the out-group called ‘mask fisher’ while I don’t.” In this regard, Park Sang-hee, a professor of Psychology at Chungbuk National University, says, “Groups are an integral part of one’s identity.” He adds: “Most people tend to consider their in-group superior to the out-group.” In other words, the reason why people blame someone as a mask fisher is that they consider “mask fishers” to belong to out-groups.

Then why is the term “mask fisher” itself problematic? Lim In-sook, one of the authors of “Who is Korean?” suggests several expressions of hatred related to appearance. In the early 1990s, as “being tall and skinny” became the ideal appearance, negative expressions such as “short legged” and “fatty” were newly coined. The term “mask fisher” is equal to



▲ Out-group (R) considered as being heterogeneous is often marginalized.



those expressions in that it ridicules someone based on looks. Professor Park explains that “Perceiving mask fishers as an out-group and making fun of them helps people maintain high self-esteem by making them regard their in-group as superior.” In other words, people who use the term “mask fisher” usually consider those people as belonging to an inferior out-group, giving themselves a sense of superiority.


Then why are these expressions of hatred widely used? Social contagion theory suggested by French sociologist Gustave Le Bon in “The Crowd” answers the question. Social contagion refers to the phenomenon in which one’s thoughts, feelings, and behavior transmit to others as viruses. Gustave Le Bon says, “An individual in a crowd is a grain of sand amid other grains of sand, which the wind stirs up at will.” In other words, individuals in a crowd lose their reason and are controlled by the group mindset. In a crowd, individuals release their unreasonable instinct in the form of offense and violence. Hatred is one of them. In this context, as anonymous individuals thoughtlessly use the term “mask fisher,” negative feelings against the group spread. Professor Park observes: “People are more likely to be exposed to offensive expressions of hatred while using social media. As a result, people mistake those hateful behaviors as socially acceptable.”

### 3) Lookism Dies Hard: How Does Difference Turn into the Object of Discrimination?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, “Mask Fisher Contest” and “Mask Fishing Challenge” were circulating on several media platforms such as YouTube and TikTok. Through the videos, people show their facial appearances with masks on and off. Then anonymous netizens evaluate whether he or she is a mask fisher or not. Furthermore, even AI distinguishes mask fishers on mobile phones. As Professor Park says, “Korean society seems to regard appearance as a significant standard when judging someone and blames those with unfavorable appearance openly.” Lookism remains a big issue in Korean society today as it has for decades.

How does difference turn into discrimination? According to Lim In-sook, lookism has appeared as people used physical differences as a tool for justifying social discrimination. She adds that lookism is another form of racism. However, people do not consider lookism as a serious social problem unlike racism. Why not? The author suggests two reasons. First, many people recognize facial appearance as “achievement status.” In other words, race is a kind of social origin that is out of one’s control and unchangeable. On the other hand, people believe that one can improve one’s facial appearance by investing time and money. Therefore, the social stigma that implies that a good-looking appearance should be rewarded, while someone with plain looks deserves to be blamed, has solidified. Also, lookism has already pervaded our daily life in the name of “mass culture.” Therefore, it is hard for people to recognize it as a serious problem. As the media continuously uses lookism as a source of entertainment making fun of one’s appearance has become part of public culture. Accordingly, it is no wonder that the above-mentioned video content has become a trend in new media.

However, putting unusual appearance on display and faulting people openly for their appearance can make those people feel afraid of physical differences. Lim In-sook mentions that if a society establishes a normalized standard of appearance and then critiques those falling short of the standard, those people can get an inferiority complex. Thereafter, that practice might turn into a mechanism for social discrimination. Thus, members of Korean society should recognize the violence of the term “Magikkun” in that it can exclude and discriminate against others.

Discussing who is responsible for the mask fishing phenomenon is meaningless. People called mask fishers have no intention to deceive others. At the same time, one’s imagination occurring by the brain’s predictive function is out of the observer’s control. It is all about the attitude of people against the phenomenon. Using the term “Magikkun” precisely demonstrates the dark side of Korean society, which has normalized lookism. Faulting people for their appearance is an old tradition that people can and should correct. As we finally take off the suffocating masks and are able to breathe again, embracing external differences will be the sole antidote that will free our society from lookism. 

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# Investigation into Lithium Battery Before the Next Generation: Is It Ideal?

By Ryu Hyo-rin

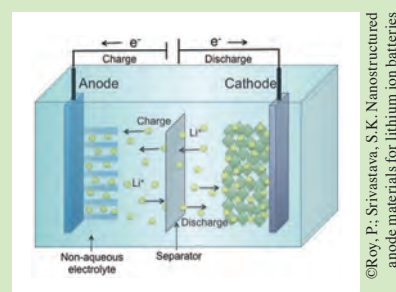
Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

“Buy, American!” is a word left by the U.S. President Joe Biden at the Detroit Auto Show, the largest auto exhibition in the United States, in September 2022 to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles (EV). Since electric vehicles are purported to be eco-friendly means of transportation that do not emit vehicle exhaust, the Biden administration is trying to increase the use of electric vehicles in the U.S. They also say that it will help to slow global warming. In order to increase the proportion of electric vehicles on the market, the administration plans to adjust the regulations on electric vehicle support through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in March, which will create favorable conditions for companies that have signed free trade agreements and provide tax breaks to electric vehicle buyers. The current administration expects the increased use of electric vehicles through these measures.

What is the source of the battery that drives electric vehicles? Most EVs use lithium batteries, because they are said to be more eco-friendly and efficient than other batteries. So, are lithium batteries really the next generation of batteries that can be used continuously in everyday life? The Argus aims to develop a balanced view of lithium batteries by figuring out their pros and cons.

## What is a lithium battery?

Lithium batteries are often used in various fields of everyday life, from electronic devices such as smartphones, laptops, wireless earphones, to electric vehicles such as electric scooters. A lithium battery generates electricity through a chemical reaction of lithium ions moving between the cathode\* and anode materials\*. When the battery is used, lithium ions pass through the cathode material and enters the anode material, resulting in discharge. Conversely, when charging a battery, lithium ions generate electricity by moving from the anode material to the cathode material. In this case, since the constant current charging\*-constant voltage charging method\* is used, charging is performed at high speed using the constant current method at an initial stage. However, just as if one continues to blow up a balloon, the air pressure in the balloon eventually increases and the balloon bursts; if the battery continues to inject electricity only in a constant current method, the pressure in the battery increases and the battery may explode. So, when it is charged to appropriate capacity, the charging is performed in the constant voltage method so that the battery is not overloaded.



▲ Lithium batteries produce energy by the force of lithium ions passing through cathode and anode materials.

©Roy, P.; Srivastava, S.K. Nanostructured anode materials for lithium ion batteries

\*Cathode material: It is a venue which lithium ion enters.

\*Anode material: It stores and releases lithium ions from the cathode and allows current to flow through an external circuit.

\*Constant current charging: It is a method of charging the battery with a constant current value. It can continue to be charged even if it is buffered, resulting in an overload of the battery as the current is invariably constant.

\*Constant voltage charging: It is a method of charging a battery with a constant voltage value. As the battery is charged while maintaining a constant voltage, the battery can be stably charged without overcharging.



## The Bright Side of Lithium Batteries

### 1. High Efficiency: Longer and More

Lithium batteries show high battery efficiency. This means that lithium batteries have more battery capacity, higher charging voltage, and higher durability. Lithium batteries are used in various electronic devices in recognition of their high efficiency, and U.S. company Apple has installed lithium batteries in all electronic devices because of the advantage that they can be used for a long time once charged. The reason why lithium batteries are highly efficient is that they have a larger energy storage capacity than other batteries. According to Hong Young-sik, a professor of science education at Seoul National University of Education, the energy of the battery is determined by two conditions of the cathode and anode materials. The first is the capacity capable of transmitting and receiving electrons between the cathode and anode materials; the second is the voltage, which is the chemical energy difference between these materials. Professor Hong says, “For example, because the capacity is the width of the flowing river, and the voltage is the height of the waterfall, the higher the amount of river and the greater the height difference, the greater the energy of the battery. Thus, the lithium-ion battery has a large energy storage capacity because its voltage is 3.7 V, which is much higher than the 2V of the lead acid battery.” In summary, a lithium battery can hold more energy because the voltage, which is the width of energy, and the difference between the height of the cathode is larger than that of other batteries.

In addition, unlike other batteries, lithium batteries are more durable because they can rotate more cycles\* to repeat charging and discharging more frequently. Lead batteries, which were

\*Cycle: According to Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary, it is a series of processes in thermodynamics until the state of an object changes and then returns to its original state. In a battery, a charge from 0 to 100 percent constitutes one cycle.



▲ Apple installed lithium batteries in all of their products.

frequently used before lithium batteries, can run only 300 to 400 cycles, but lithium batteries can run about 2,000 cycles. To borrow from Choi Woongchul, a professor of automotive engineering at Kookmin University, “When charging a battery, lithium cations enter between the carbon gaps in the anode material and comes out from it when discharged. Even if this process is repeated several times, the lithium battery does not generate a significant amount of foreign substances caused in the anode material. In conclusion, compared to other batteries, lithium can rotate more cycles than other batteries because it reciprocates between the cathode material and anode material more neatly than other batteries.”

### 2. Safety: Hotter and Safer

What are the advantages of lithium batteries over conventional primary batteries\* such as lead batteries? First, lithium batteries can function in a wider range of external temperatures than conventional batteries. Lead batteries, which were widely used in electronic devices and vehicle batteries before lithium, can be operated at temperatures ranging from minus 20 C to 55 C. When a lead battery reaches a temperature of 55 C or higher, the battery overheats and becomes inoperable. Even if it cannot withstand high temperatures and the contents flow out and contact the eyes, it can adversely affect the human body by causing blindness or lead poisoning. However, the lithium battery has a lower conductivity than lead and generates less heat, so it can operate from minus 20 C to 65 C. Although the maximum temperature a lithium battery can withstand is only 10 C higher than a lead battery, this is a huge difference in battery utilization and safety. In addition, a Protection Circuit Module (PCM), which is a current cut-off protection circuit, exists in the lithium battery to block current when the battery is overheated, preventing the battery from overheating further. Professor Hong says, “If a lithium-ion battery is used for a long time or overcharged above 100 percent, heat may be generated. If the battery is overcharged, gas is generated as the electrolyte\* continues to decompose. This increases the internal pressure and causes the battery to explode and burn. To prevent this process, the battery contains a PCM, a protection circuit that blocks the flow of current during the charging and discharging

\*Primary battery: A battery used in remote control, electronic clocks, etc. A secondary battery may be charged even after discharge and thus may be used again, whereas a primary battery may not be used again after use.

\*Electrolyte: It is a solution put into an electrolytic cell, which is a container for electrolysis during electrolysis. It is a vehicle that transports lithium ions.

of the battery when the temperature rises.”

The electrolyte used in the lead battery is acidic enough to melt metal, so it is very dangerous because if it leaks, it may cause burns to the skin and eyes. However, lithium batteries use cobalt, which was mainly used as paint; and nickel alloys, which are now also used in Earrings. These substances are not as strong as lead acid and are harmless even in contact with the human body; so, they are often used in everyday life in dyes, accessories, and coins, as well as lithium batteries. According to Lee Hyun-wook, a professor of energy and chemical engineering at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), “Lead batteries are toxic because the material called lead itself is a heavy metal. On the contrary, in the case of a lithium-ion battery use the elements, such as carbon, copper, aluminum, lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, iron, etc., which are less toxic. Therefore, it can be said that lead batteries are made of substances more harmful to the human body than lithium batteries.” In other words, lithium batteries do not contain heavy metals and consist of less toxic elements than other batteries, so they can be said to be comparatively safer than lead batteries.

### 3. Eco-friendly: Less Harmful Substances and Recyclable

Electric vehicles emit less exhaust gas than internal combustion locomotives that run on gasoline and diesel, so they are considered to be “eco-friendly” transportation. So, what about lithium batteries, which are the fuel for electric cars? Lithium batteries are eco-friendly batteries that do not use dangerous materials such as lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), and sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), which are limited in use under the Korean Toxic Chemicals Control Act. Cadmium and sulfuric acid contained in lead batteries that were previously used are accumulated in the soil after disposal and absorbed by crops, causing damage to people and livestock. Hazardous metal components such as lead in discarded lead batteries cause the destruction of the food chain as the remaining materials in the emission waste accumulates in the environment even if they are not directly introduced into the human body. And the effects impact on humans, the top of the food chain. According to “Comparison of Environmental Effects of Lithium (ion polymer) Battery and Lead Storage Battery Production Process” released by the Korea Energy Economic Research Institute in May 2019, lithium-ion batteries are about 60 percent of lead batteries in terms of resource exhaustion in the production process. A lead

battery uses a lead-antimony alloy for its cathode plate, which has a higher influence on resource depletion than a lithium-ion battery. Antimony used in lead batteries is designated as a rare metal, and this metal element poses a risk to supply if all of it is imported from a specific country because stores and production are localized in very few countries. However, the main ingredients of lithium batteries are less scarce minerals such as lithium, aluminum, and iron. According to “Mineral Community Summaries 2022,” released by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in January 2022, global antimony reserves are 1.5 million tons, but the world reserves around 22 million metric tons of lithium. Lithium batteries are less likely to run out of global resources than lead batteries.

Also, batteries can be recycled. Those with a residual performance of 70 to 80 percent or more among discarded lithium batteries can be recycled or reused in an Energy Storage System (ESS), etc. after recovery treatment. According to Professor Choi, ESS made from recycled lithium batteries is used in many fields. “If you install ESS in your home, you can use it as an emergency battery in case of a power outage. In addition, ESS is essential to store electricity generated by solar or wind power generation because eco-friendly energy takes arbitrary time to generate energy.” Japan’s Nissan Motor Co., which established a factory in Fukushima Province of Japan in March, 2018 to reuse lithium-ion batteries, has improved lithium batteries that have fallen below 80 percent in efficiency and is reselling them as electric vehicle batteries. However, for waste batteries with low residual performance as it is difficult to reuse, they can be recycled in the way of extracting metals from the batteries such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese and recycling them. Lithium batteries are eco-friendly batteries that are not discarded even after use and return to humans as they are, so that they do not pollute the earth’s soil and oceans.



▲ Recycled lithium batteries can be reborn as ESS.

©Maxworld Technologies



## The Dark Side of Lithium Battery

### 1. Lower and Lower Efficiency: The Longer You Use, the Faster You Drain It

If you are a smartphone user, you may have experienced more and more frequent smartphone discharge as you use your smartphone for a longer time. In addition, laptops and tablet PCs are discharged more frequently over the years, so you should always have an auxiliary battery or charger. As such, lithium batteries used in electronic devices decrease battery efficiency as they are used over time. The lithium batteries used in most mobile phones is completely discharged or its life decreases when the number of charges exceeds hundreds of times. The reason is the charging method of lithium batteries. According to the August 2022 research report by Dr. Jang Won-young of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) Energy Storage Research Center and Dr. Kim Seung-min of the Carbon Convergence Materials Research Center, the main cause of the battery's side-reaction\* is the degradation of the battery's charging performance. However, it is said that this phenomenon was concentrated mainly on the surface of the battery, and charging was uneven. In addition, nickel that moved to the lithium seat could not return to its original position even when discharged, causing lithium and nickel cations to continue to be mixed periodically, resulting in a serious battery performance degradation. As a result, side reactions during charging reduce the efficiency of lithium batteries and cause aging. In conclusion, lithium batteries are not permanently efficient.

The performance degradation and aging of lithium batteries even occur at low temperatures. According to Professor Choi,



▲ In 2016, Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 7 exploded due to its battery problem.

electrolyte is a liquid, so movement can be active only when the temperature is appropriate; but if the temperature is low, it becomes as if oil hardens and cannot move well. Professor Choi continues to notes, "If the lithium-containing electrolyte does not enter the surface of the anode material and is forced to press the same

even though it does not go well, it remains on the outside and becomes coated. In this case, the lithium wall that could not enter the anode agent becomes thick, and it grows like a snowflake. This crystal is called dendrite, which causes battery aging at low temperatures."

### 2. Danger: Explosive

During the boarding check-in at the airport, did any airline staff ever check in to see if there was a secondary battery or e-cigarette in the checked baggage? This is because all lithium batteries are likely to explode. The cause of a potential explosion lies in the electrolyte of the lithium battery. An electrolyte is a material for transferring ions, and a volatile electrolyte is used in a lithium battery, which is more easily burned than gasoline. If heat is applied to the lithium battery due to overcharging or overuse, the electrolyte of the battery may also be heated and explode. Professor Lee says, "There are many reasons for battery explosions, but the main cause is impurities in the battery. If an unwanted impurity in the process of manufacturing a battery cathode and anode flows rapidly to only one part, the temperature rises only for that part. That would vaporize the electrolyte and cause the battery to explode. For this reason, battery manufacturers make great efforts to eliminate impurities such as fine metal particles when manufacturing electrodes." The lithium battery may explode if an electrolyte in the lithium battery is heated because of a current flow failure caused by impurities.

Another cause is damage to the separator of the lithium battery. The separator is a component material to prevent two electrodes of the anode and cathode from directly contacting each other to emit high energy. If the separator is damaged due to a change in temperature or external stimulus and does not operate well, a short circuit occurs in contact with the cathode containing high density energy, and eventually the battery explodes. This is also the cause of Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 7 explosion in August 2016. According to Chosun Member's column written by science columnist Song Joon-seop, "To make smartphones thinner, batteries must be made as thin as possible, and parts inside the batteries must be densely arranged to make them thinner. In the process, the upper right part of the battery was pressed against the substrate, causing

\*Side-reaction: It means that ions moving between the cathode and the anode material cause an undesired reaction other than a basic reaction reciprocating through the electrode, and is a kind of an obstructionist reaction.

damage to the battery separator of Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 7."

### 3. Negative Environmental Effects: Difficult to Recycle

Unlike primary batteries, lithium batteries are known as recyclable and eco-friendly batteries. However, according to the Korea Environment Corporation's research service to introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility and improve the battery recycling system in 2019, the lithium battery recycling rate is only 4.2 percent (34 tons). This is because lithium batteries have a larger capacity and more complex composition than lead batteries, making recycling difficult. If the lithium battery is decomposed incorrectly, defects may occur in the minerals composed of the batteries, and the quality of the minerals may decrease, making it impossible to recycle them at all. Furthermore, there is a risk of explosion due to the problem of the lithium battery recycling method. In general, battery recycling plants grind batteries into powder and dissolve the powder with acidic substances. However, there is a risk of explosion during the decomposition process because lithium batteries contain substances that may explode, such as lithium. In the end, if there is a problem of touching sensitive elements during the decomposition process, lithium batteries will become non-recyclable and remain garbage on Earth.

An example of the difficulty in recycling is the electric vehicle battery. According to the Korea Energy Economics Institute's "Policy Study on the Establishment of an After-Use Battery Market" published in May 2019, the volume of electric vehicle batteries is as large as the fuel tanks of internal combustion locomotives such as South Korea's Saemaeul Train and requires considerable cost and space to transport and store them. Problems arise in the process of checking whether

electric car batteries are recyclable or not. Professor Choi observes, "To recycle lithium batteries, we need to measure the level of battery life before recycling. The measurement method is charging the battery slowly to the maximum voltage and then slowly discharging the battery, which has a disadvantage in that it takes more than 20 hours per battery. If there are 100,000 electric cars that are abandoned a year, it will take a lot of time and labor costs to recycle batteries." A cost problem occurs in the process of checking the efficiency of an electric car battery. On the other hand, in South Korea, if an electric vehicle waste battery occurs, the owner must hand over the waste battery to a battery recycling company at his own expense or return it to a local government that gave subsidies for purchasing electric vehicles. However, if these waste batteries are piled up in local governments, there may be a problem of insufficient space to store batteries. Ultimately, lithium batteries are not fully economical and realistic in the recycling process.



©Young Poong

▲ A lot of lithium batteries are thrown away from electric vehicles that are abandoned every year.

From electric vehicles to smartphones in our hands, everyday life and lithium batteries are inseparable. Lithium batteries are widely used today with their unique high efficiency and are drawing much attention around the world as the ideal batteries of the future. However, lithium batteries still have drawbacks in terms of efficiency, safety, and environment, to continue to be used in the future. Now that lithium batteries are becoming the basic batteries for almost all electronic devices in daily life beyond electric vehicles, shouldn't it be time to consider whether lithium batteries are the ideal batteries? The Argus looks forward to the day when the next-generation lithium batteries that simultaneously will improve the quality of human life and the global environment emerge. 🌱

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# Under the Title of “Qualification:” Dark Sides of Extracurricular Activities

By Kim Jun-hong  
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From reporters and supporters to ambassadors and marketers: extracurricular activities have become a necessity, not an option, for college students. The process of applying for extracurricular activities is often complicated, from writing a self-introduction to conducting preliminary tasks and interviews. For some popular activities, the competition rate exceeds 100 to one. Through extracurricular activities, students can enjoy advantages by experiencing various things, making personal connections, and ultimately linking them to employment. However, there are lots of disappointing points behind these advantages. They vary from programs with grand titles only to those with “passion pay” controversies, much work with little rewards. The damage is directly given to college students and young applicants who have dedicated their time and passion. The problem is that not many students know much about the dark sides of these extracurricular activities and, even if they do, they have no choice but to endure unfair treatment for the sake of accumulating qualification in applying for jobs later. The Argus aims to implant the right perspective on extracurricular activities by exploring the problems of those activities and their causes.



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▲ It is easy to find recruitment notices of various extracurricular activities on the internet.

## Before Reading What Are Extracurricular Activities?

Extracurricular activities refer to all activities done by college students other than the school curriculum. Students with extracurricular activities are sought by companies or organizations during recruitment. Extracurricular activities exist in various forms, including reporters, supporters, ambassadors, marketers, and volunteer groups. Students are sponsored by a company or organization and gain experience with that organization's products or services. Students also conduct promotions by planning and producing related content. According to a survey conducted by Job Korea and Albamon on 507 male and female college students in January 2019, 70.6 percent of the participants answered that they had experience in extracurricular activities. This means that seven out of 10 college students have participated in them. When asked why they participated, 56.4 percent of them answered, “to build up qualifications for employment:” the top reason. Consequently, we can see that students seek lots of extracurricular activities to experience various things, mainly for the purpose of linking them with employment.



▲ According to the survey, seven out of 10 college students have experience in extracurricular activities.

## Phenomenon

### The Problems of Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities have been established as an essential step for employment, along with getting good grades, for quite a long time. There are various internet sites such as Wevity, Linkareer, and Campus Pick, that contain information related to extracurricular activities. Other than recruitment notices, various services such as self-introduction samples and tips for interviews are provided at those sites. Applications that provide such information have long been released, too. Students frequently check recruitment notices and receive recommendations for tailored activities through applications such as Ssgsag and Campung. It is easy to find lots of people managing additional social media accounts just for extracurricular activities. Apart from the main social media account, where one uploads their daily life, people upload posts related to extracurricular activities and use them solely for promotion. This can be seen as creating some kind of portfolio that will be helpful in applying for other activities in the future. From this, we can see that a lot of students are passionate about extracurricular activities. However, there are continuous problems surrounding extracurricular activities. According to the "Survey on Perceptions of Extracurricular Activities in 2015" conducted by the Presidential Committee on Youth, 60.5 percent of the participants responded that they stressed out while participating in extracurricular activities. Cases varied, including simple labor, exploitation, and vague recruitment notices.

Park, a junior in college, worked as a supporter that conducts digital environment education for the digitally underprivileged. Activities such as strengthening digital capabilities and providing educational services for the digitally underprivileged were specified in the recruitment, and the elderly participated as trainees. However, Park faced difficulty from the beginning since none of the trainees knew how to have a video conference, although they had to hold the meeting online. Due to this, the content of education changed; it was not about the digital environment, but about basic internet utilization. Online education, which began after twists and turns, progressed slowly due to the trainees' lack of interest and low participation. Park asked for help from the organizers of the program, but the officials turned all the problem solving over to the supporters without any specific action taken on their part. In addition, the program was originally scheduled online, but due to the slow progress, the officials demanded the supporters hold

offline education, saying, "If additional training is needed, it would be natural to offer it voluntarily." Even though it was an unplanned event, Park engaged in the education faithfully. But even after that, the officials kept asking for additional activities unmentioned in the original description of the position. Park said, "I was puzzled by the unexpected situations, and it felt irresponsible for the officials to toss all the management to the supporters. I had a lot of stress during the process."

Although there are various problems, such as activities being different from those advertised in the recruitment, organizers' laid-back responses, and exploitation, students say they have no choice but to endure all of them. According to the results of a survey by the Committee on Youth, 42.9 percent of college students answered "I just put up with it" when asked how they deal with problems regarding extracurricular activities. "There seems no vision towards improvement" was the most common reason (52.9 percent), and another reason, "Afraid of the possibility of disadvantages in employment," also reached 13.5 percent. This vicious cycle continues between students who have no choice but to continue extracurricular activities despite their stress, and companies that exploit the anxious students trying to fill just one more line in their resume.

## Cause

### 1. Poor Management of the Organizers

Lots of extracurricular activities with poor structures and management can be seen. To attract the attention of college students and job applicants, the organizers of the activities offer benefits they cannot actually provide students, and there are also cases where actual management is not carried out by them but outsourced. In fact, there are many cases with programs that are different from the ones described in the initial recruitment notice. There are also cases where participants undertake simple labor, viral marketing, and event assistance on behalf of employees. No small number of students had to pay a certain amount of money to be involved in activities. Why would organizations and companies continue to run extracurricular activities even after going through such unreasonable and unfair procedures? What are college student supporters to them?

"Develop your skills by participating in basic marketing training and campaign planning through this program." This is a phrase from a recruitment notice for college student ambassadors. It appears that the company is providing students an opportunity to build job experience. But isn't the company's



hidden intention to increase promotional effects through exploiting college students? In “Precarity and Hope in Digital Labor: In-depth Interviews on the Off-campus Internship Experiences of College Students” by Lee Hee-eun, a professor of Chosun University, the reason why a tobacco company hosts extracurricular activities is stated. Since tobacco companies do not receive advertising fees, direct promotion, such as broadcast advertisements, is difficult. That is why they take advantage of college students for promotion. According to Lee, extracurricular activities can be viewed as a process where organizations or companies exploit the value of college students as a labor force. Students are potential customers since they are interested in the companies’ main products. Simultaneously, they are digital workers who can promote and form a specific image through personal connections. Therefore, students are both the labor force and consumers that must be managed in advance from the perspective of companies.

Na Hyeonu, Secretary General of Youth Community Union, points out that proper management and supervision are not being carried out in the process of extracurricular activities. “If someone does normal work, they are regulated by labor laws. Even in the case of field training, they operate in line with the regulations established by the Ministry of Education. However, in the case of short-term programs such as those for supporters and ambassadors, there are cases where management is impossible, since it is difficult to determine the organization in charge, and there are no operating standards.” As for some companies that manage extracurricular activities, Na states, “In some ways, companies seem to have people who want a career do things that befit short-term personnel, or work that requires costs.” There are cases where companies host extracurricular activities aiming at promotional effects, and college students being placed at the bottom, alternating between their labor force and potential consumers. Even when the intention of marketing is quite obvious, students continue their work because they want to work in that field in the future, or to simply build up skills. Some companies look down on students and simply treat them as a means of labor and promotion. By only giving students a certificate of completion, they do not provide sufficient acknowledgement of student achievements during the activities.

### 2. Lack of Guidelines

Kang, a freshman, complained about the vague statements regarding the expenses for extracurricular activities. Kang

worked as a supporter of a civic organization. The only benefit mentioned in the recruitment ad was “scholarships for best participants,” without any specification of activity fees. While Kang was aware that there was no fixed payment, she worked hard as the leader of the team activity, with the hope of becoming the best participant. However, the scholarship was given to another participant at the end. Kang had no complaints about the result but raised issues with the ambiguity of the term “best participant.” The criteria and process of selection were unclear, but the fact that scholarships were going to be rewarded to outstanding participants caused excessive competition.

The methods of managing and benefits vary widely among companies and organizations. There are some cases with no particular support fees; sometimes the fees are replaced by the use of facilities. There are also cases that announce vague benefit promises, as in Kang’s case above. This is because there are no legal sanctions or official guidelines provided by the government on such extracurricular activities. In 2016, guidelines containing matters to be followed when managing a system that provides work experience opportunities were created. But this was only a recommendation, and not many people knew it existed, so there were no practical benefits. Also, since participants do not sign a contract on extracurricular activities, there is no legal way to prevent various types of exploitation or unfairness.

Why are guidelines for extracurricular activities still not being established? Secretary General Na explained that the reason can be found in the specificity of short-term extracurricular activities. “A system usually changes when there are people who demand it. But in the case of short-term workers, they often say they just had a bad experience and stop working.” Then he added, “Since the extracurricular activity itself is a program that runs for a short period, it seems that few people raise issues. If that continues, the stream of new victims will be endless.”

Since extracurricular activities are not engaged in for the purpose of earning money, it is ambiguous to call them labor. In this context, participants of extracurricular activities are unlikely to be treated as workers within current labor laws. It would be difficult to monitor the overall process of extracurricular activities and view all participants as workers, within the boundary of labor law. However, since it is about investing one’s time, it is obviously a problem that there is no minimum standard for appropriate compensation for the

participants' time and effort. There is a need for legal standards that specify the details and benefits of activities, and that supervise the overall process. In particular, guidelines should be established to crack down on cases that mislead the enthusiasm of young people under the pretext of providing experience, so that students no longer suffer from work intensity that exceeds the level of extracurricular activities.

### 3. The Reality College Students Face

The reality of college students, where demand for extracurricular activities is unstoppable despite ongoing of problems, can be seen as the fundamental reason why there is still a lack of regulations to prevent exploitation occurring with extracurricular activities. Although there are many loopholes in extracurricular activities, the reason why various activities are constantly emerging and being applied for is because of college students' thirst for qualifications. Currently, many students are desperately participating in extracurricular activities regardless of the unfair treatment by the organizers of the activities, just thinking that it might be helpful later when seeking a job.

According to the Korean Statistical Information Service of Statistics Korea in October 2022, among young people aged 15 to 29 who had employment experience after graduation, those who took two years or more to get a job for the first time numbered 633,000 as of the first half of 2022. In particular, the number of people who spent more than three years increased by 35,000, compared to the previous year. Young people who are unable to find a job due to increased employment difficulties try to continue various activities while enduring injustice, to meet the need for talented people with social experiences. The vicious cycle continues to increase the burden on students. The original purpose of extracurricular activities faded long ago

because students continue participating in activities unrelated to their future career. Companies, on the other hand, also use students as a means of promotion, and the degree of support and benefits vary widely from company to company.

College students stuck with building up skills through various extracurricular activities can be seen as a distorted aspect of the Korean job market nowadays. Companies require students to have a variety of experience-oriented skills that are not directly related to the job itself. They are making it more difficult to get a job by making extracurricular activities a necessity. Secretary General Na described Korea's labor market as being binary. "Jobs are divided into two; jobs with stable employment and high wages occupying 20 percent of the total, and the remaining 80 percent." Na explains, "In fact, young people nowadays spend a great deal of time and money in order to enter that 20 percent, by investing in various activities, in addition to studying." In this fierce competition for employment, young people are bound to feel that they will fall behind if they do not participate in all the activities that others participate in, which is why they cannot let go of them. They have no choice but to build up qualifications to get even a little ahead in the competition.

After all, college students are clearly way below in position, and are still unable to easily let go of opportunities for extracurricular activities. Still, many people need qualifications, and since such qualifications are continuously required in the job market, it is difficult to say that extracurricular activities themselves should be eliminated. However, what is most needed is to mend the poor management and supervision system currently in place. The government should establish appropriate rules and enforce them.

The fact that extracurricular activities are an opportunity for college students to gain a variety of experiences in a wider field than campus cannot be ignored. However, although they are unavoidable steps for qualification, the losses young people encounter during the process should never be regarded as unavoidable. Covering up the problems with the idea "Everyone else does it. It will be okay when the activity is over," will make it impossible to solve the fundamental problem. Ultimately, it is necessary to prepare active countermeasures, such as establishing clear regulations and cracking down on all sorts of abuses. Now that competition for employment is becoming more intense, how about turning our attention towards the pitiful reality of young people who inevitably endure injustice? In order to prevent young people's time from being wasted just to obtain a single line for their resume, extracurricular activities should develop in a way where compensation is made fairly. ❏

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# Environmental Laws: The Sword and Scale That Protects the Environment

**By Shin Jun-seo**

*Editor of Social Section*

**O**n March 22, 2022, the “Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth” passed the “Enforcement Decree of the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth to Cope with the Climate Crisis.” South Korea became the 14th country to legislate its 2050 carbon-neutral vision with a goal of balancing greenhouse gas emissions with global carbon dioxide absorption so that the density of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere stops rising. According to the Ministry of Environment, there are currently 237 environmental laws. According to the National Archives of Korea, Article 35 of the current Constitution stipulates environmental rights, and it includes regulations on environmental protection and obligations of the state and people about the environment.

Through these environmental rights, various environmental laws are currently influencing society. It can be seen that environmental issues are attracting attention, as 63.2 percent answered “severe” to the question, “How much do you think climate change is affecting your health?” in a survey conducted by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in December 2022. The Argus examines the changes to environmental laws in South Korea and looks at changes in environmental problems and society altogether.



## 1. Pollution Prevention Act

(the 1960s to the mid-1970s)

According to Seoul Solution, policy archive of Seoul, this act is to “prevent harm to health or the environment from air pollution, water pollution, noise, or vibration, and thereby improve public health and create a healthier living environment.” The Pollution Prevention Act is the first national environmental act and is characterized by managing factories and workplaces by pollution medium. But it had only 21 articles and was lacking, compared to the current 61-article Framework Act on Environmental Policy of today. Even after the enactment in 1963, the following legislation was slow, with the enforcement decree enacted only in July 1969, and the law was ineffective for the social atmosphere of the 1960s, which prioritized economic development.

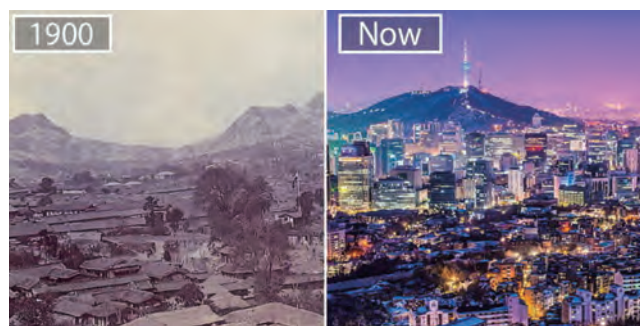
### • Background •

#### The First Recognition of Environmental Issues

The beginning of South Korea’s environmental law is in line with environmental issues, and environmental problems in South Korea cannot be separated from the nation’s economic development. South Korea’s economic development, also known as “The Miracle of Han River,” began in 1962. When oil products were produced at the first Ulsan Industrial Park and the industry began to roll in the mid-1960s, the media and the public were thrilled to see the black smoke of the factory, viewing it as a symbol of prosperity. But with economic development, spread environmental pollution to the extent that farmers around the industrial park had to give up farming because of pollution. In short, environmental issues have been recognized as social issues in South Korea

due to environmental problems that have occurred since the industrialization promotion of the five-year economic development plan. Choi Seung-pil, a Law professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, says, “Before the 1960s, environmental acts had the form of sanitation acts. In the reality where water and sewage were not properly separated or unauthorized dumping of pollutants became common, the interest of an environmental act was concentrated on forming a sanitary environment. However, in the 1960s, as the five-year economic development plan began and industrialization took place, the attention of the environmental act shifted to the law regarding pollution, and the pollution prevention act was enacted in 1963.”

In addition to the five-year economic development plan, the growth of the mining and industrial sector, urbanization, and rapid population growth propelled environmental pollution in the 1960s. According to “Korea’s Pollution Situation and Awareness in the 1970s,” the total amount of air pollutants nationwide increased from 516,000 tons in 1965 to 1.43 million tons in 1971. The amount of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) near the water intake site in Guui neighborhood, Seoul, increased from 14.2 ppm in 1967 to 20.3 ppm in 1969. The first recognition of environmental pollution caused by the rapid economic development led to the enactment of the first national environmental protection law. Koh Moon-hyun, a Law professor at Soongsil University, says: “At that time, government leaders and government authorities focused on economic development and prevented or intentionally ignored environmental issues from being referred to in the media, and most people also had very low awareness of environmental issues. It was a time when environmental issues were not highlighted as major social issues and remained under control.”



▲ South Korea’s economic development, “The Miracle of Han River,” began in 1962.



## 2. Environmental Conservation Act

(late 1970s to late 1980s)

The purpose of this Act is to contribute to the improvement of public health by preventing health and hygiene hazards caused by air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise, vibration, or odor, and properly preserving the environment. In the 1970s, when industrialization and urbanization took place more rapidly, environmental problems were seriously



recognized. The revision of the pollution prevention act allowed for administrative penalties such as warnings, order of improvement, order to suspend operation and criminal charges for violation of regulations, but the pollution prevention act was still passive in responding to environmental pollution, having limited response, while more diverse environmental problems were forming. Then the Environmental Conservation Act was enacted on December 31, 1977. In Professor Koh's words, "In the 1970s, when rapid industrialization and urbanization took place, environmental problems were more seriously recognized. Therefore, the conventional pollution prevention act that was aimed at passive pollution control had limitations in effectively coping with various environmental problems." While the previous Pollution Prevention Act only targeted air pollution and water pollution, the Environmental Conservation Act dealt with overall environmental problems and even provided preventive functions.

### • Background •

#### The Necessity of Systematic Response to Environmental Problems

While the recognition of the occurrence of environmental problems led to the enactment of pollution prevention laws, the public's perception of the seriousness of environmental problems led to the enactment of the Environmental Conservation Act. According to the 1976 Korea Environmental Protection Research Association's "Sample Survey of Citizens' Consciousness on Pollution," 68 percent of Seoul citizens said they knew the meaning of environmental pollution very well, and 55 percent said that the pollution was unbearably serious. According to "Korea's pollution situation and disaster awareness in the 1970s," "High-speed industrialization under the name of economic growth had greater economic effects

such as export expansion and absorption of domestic labor, but our air, soil, rivers, and oceans are reaching irreversible limits." The public's interest led to the enactment of the Environment Conservation Act.

Professor Choi observes: "In 1980, the Environment Office, the predecessor of the Ministry of Environment today, was established, and in 1986, the Wastes Control Act was enacted for the systematic management of waste. Meanwhile, it was the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics that greatly contributed to the development of the environmental act during this period. This is because South Korea began to manage the air and water quality at an international level while managing international events so that it would match the global standards," signaling that environmental acts in the 1980s were heading for another change. In addition, according to "Changes and Challenges in Korea's Environmental Policy," the Environmental Conservation Act was created when President Park Chung-hee recognized the seriousness of the environmental problems and mentioned it at a press conference. There was also a clear reason for the government to take action on environmental issues in order to receive global funding for development.

### 3. Framework Act on Environmental Policy (the 1990s to the present)

Article One of the Framework Act on Environmental Policy states: "The purpose of this Act is to ensure that all citizens enjoy a healthy and pleasant life by preventing environmental pollution and environmental damage and by managing and preserving the environment in an appropriate and sustainable manner through defining the rights and duties of citizens and the obligations of the State with regard to environmental preservation and determining the fundamental matters for environmental policies."

In the 1980s, environmental rights were newly established in the Constitution, and Article 35 (1) of the current Constitution suggests environmental rights, saying: "All citizens shall have the right to a healthy and pleasant environment. The State and all citizens shall endeavor to protect the environment." This constitutional environmental right provides legal interpretation, direction setting, and standards for various environmental problems occurring in South Korea. The Framework Act on Environmental Policy was enacted to



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▲ Recognizing environmental problems led to the enactment of pollution prevention laws.

guarantee these environmental rights and cope with diversified environmental problems. The Comprehensive Plan for National Environment, which can be said to be the basis of Korea's environmental plan, is established every 10 years under consultation with the Minister of Environment and the heads of each administrative agency under Article 12 of the Framework Act on Environmental Policy. The Framework Act on Environmental Policy has continued to present the ideology and direction of the environmental policy as a higher law and basic law in the environmental field for more than 30 years since its enactment.

### • Background •

#### Response to Various Environmental Issues

In the late 1980s, multiple laws were needed to deal with increasingly diverse environmental issues. In August 1990, six laws including the Framework Act on Environmental Policy, Clean Air Conservation Act, and Environmental Dispute Mediation Act were enacted. The biggest event that affected the environmental sector in the 1990s was the 1992 Rio Conference, The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It helped transform advanced countries' economic growth-oriented strategies into sustainable development policies to promote balanced development with the environment. South Korea also emphasized diversification of environmental policies and influenced the emergence of various environmental laws. Professor Choi says: "In 1992, the Rio Conference was held in Rio, Brazil, and presented a new topic of sustainability, and the environmental legislation developed around a new agenda which was 'sustainable development.'" Professor Koh also says: "Korea's environmental policy is greatly affected by the international atmosphere due to the need for international cooperation,

which is a characteristic of environmental issues."

"History and Tasks of Korean Environmental Act" (2013) notes: "Since the 1980s, the quantitative expansion of environmental law has accelerated as the size of the Korean economy has increased, and the era of the Framework Act on Environmental Policy began. The number of laws and regulations has increased significantly, and the environmental administrative organization has been reorganized. The budget for environmental law enforcement has also been greatly increased." According to the "Recent Trends, Issues and Tasks of the Environmental Administrative Law," the period after 2010 can be considered to be "an era of advanced environmental legislation." In addition to responding to environmental problems, expanding legal remedies for environmental damage, accepting precautionary principles even if there is no clear evidence, and integrating and managing emissions by workplaces, attention on recycling and on biodiversity became the main trends. The Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity and Act on Liability For Environmental Damage and Relief Thereof can be regarded as laws enacted to reflect this trend. Professor Choi describes the atmosphere of the 2000s and 2010s: "Another remarkable change in environmental legislation is focusing on protecting the natural environment and assets. This is because the perception has been formed that reckless development and use of nature are no longer sustainable. In addition to various laws, the Environmental Education Promotion Act was enacted as the importance of environmental education at the school level was emphasized, and the concept of resource circulation including recycling appeared in the laws."

### Prospects

1) Having the Framework Act on Environmental Policy and enacting various environmental laws have the advantage of efficient regulation by applying regulations tailored to each pollution medium and pollution sector, but it may be less efficient as multiple laws are created through excessive segmentation. Despite that there are some laws that overlap on the same or similar pollution media and pollution fields, many laws have emerged unnecessarily, adding to the complexity and redundancy of environmental laws. According to "Korea's Environmental Law Issues and Challenges (2011)," the relationship between the Framework Act on Environmental



▲ The biggest event that affected the environmental sector in the 1990s was the 1992 Rio Conference.



## Diachrony

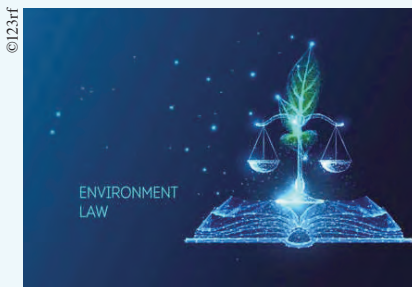
Policy and other environmental acts, and environmental laws to each other is unclear, and in some cases, laws do overlap. As multiple environmental laws are necessary to cope with various environmental problems, the task will be to prevent conflicts between environmental laws.

To borrow from Professor Koh, “Since the current environmental law consists of a management system for each pollutant medium, the same regulations are scattered in various laws, so it is very distracting. There are many areas where equity between individual laws is inconsistent. In order to resolve confusion in the regulatory system and overlap in regulations, and to improve regulatory uniformity, comprehensiveness, efficiency, and equity, it is necessary to enact an integrated environmental law that reorganizes legal systems. If it is too difficult to enact a complete integrated environment law from the beginning, it is necessary to start with efforts to integrate, coordinate, and unify at least by similar environment and pollution areas.”

2) The 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Rio stated in Article 2, “The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such

a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.” In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol set greenhouse gas reduction obligations for developed countries, which accounted for 55 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. But when the U.S. and other advanced countries declared their absence, the Paris Agreement changed the existing Kyoto Protocol system, which imposed only on developed countries, into a system with all countries participating while considering each country’s situation.

South Korea is also wary of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions and thus enacted the Framework Act on Carbon Neutral and Green Growth for Coping with Climate Crisis in September 2021. As the national goal of 2050 carbon neutrality has been set, Korea will continue to respond to climate change and move toward carbon neutrality. Professor Koh says, “It is necessary to enact integrated laws such as the Act on the Storage of Carbon Dioxide on Life Cycle, such as Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and follow-up management, which are important means of achieving carbon neutrality. We will have to gather our wisdom to enact an integrated environmental law that meets the global standards for preparing for ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance), the most important agenda in recent years.”



▲ Scrutinizing environmental laws is one of the essential ways to save and look after the environment.

The world is continuing to develop and certainly is creating a better tomorrow than today. However, we should not forget that it cost a lot to make the Earth what it is today through the brilliant development by humans. Through climate change, mankind is paying the price for the actions that they have inadvertently committed. It can be said that scrutinizing environmental laws is one of the essential ways to save and look after the environment so that the future of mankind can exist. The Argus hopes that human development and the environment can proceed together. 🌱

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# Ambition for a New Start

## \* Cho Eun

Being the Editor-in-Chief of The Argus starting in 2023 presents a challenge. Advising reporters with insight and confidence is still awkward. Although I miss investigating and writing about topics that interests me, I have a deep appreciation for my reporters and The Argus, and am honored to be their leader. My goal for this semester is to assist my reporters with what they wish to write and with the proper process for crafting their articles.

## \* Choi Ye-jin

Coming back to The Argus means a lot to me. Things have changed a lot, and the new year has come. In 2023, my goal is to think and behave positively. It will be a busy year because I am at an important point in my life. However, with a superwoman mindset, I want to achieve many things not only in school such as high grades, but in other areas related to my career. The last thing I want to do this year is to live alone in Mapo-gu in Seoul. Dreams come true.

## \* Lee Ju-won

In 2023, I hope I can travel all over the country even though I never know where to go or when to visit places. Travel always broadens my horizons because it leads me to meet new people and experience something new. I am hoping to grow through taking in all the things I experience while traveling. Wish me luck!

## \* Ryu Hyo-rin

For me, 2023 is a very meaningful year because this is my first year working as a staff reporter at The Argus. There might be many ups and downs in the process of working as a staff reporter, but I hope to find joy and develop from many experiences. It seems particularly important this year to maintain a positive attitude despite difficulties. I hope everyone will start this year cheerfully and close it meaningfully!

## \* Shin Jun-seo

The year 2023 is a new start for me. I will prepare to enter the army and say goodbye to The Argus, but for now I am just happy to start writing again and communicate with readers through my articles. I hope that my peer reporters and readers will all have a happy new year and a new start.

## \* Kim Jun-hong

Becoming a better person than I was last year is my goal for 2023. As I look back, I feel like I have grown up a little more than last year. Joining The Argus has been a great boost, and for that I am very grateful. I hope that this year I will be able to do my best both in The Argus and schoolwork to make sure that once I look back my progress next year, I will evaluate myself as having grown one step further. That would be enough, surely.

## \* Kim Su-yeon

The year 2023 has finally arrived, marking the first article that I wrote as a staff reporter for the Argus. Sometimes I have lost my way, but friendly advice has navigated me to the right way. I have always been afraid of change and new beginnings, but fear is the mind-killer. I hope that I will finally enjoy all the challenges at the end of this year. The Argus will be another turning point in my life. Anyway, let's just take it easy and enjoy the new semester to the full!

## \* Lee Jue-hyun

Starting from 2023, most of everyday life will return to pre-Covid-19 normalcy. There will be no more masks, no more inevitable socially distanced meetings. Since 2023 will be a new threshold for society, it will also be a good starting point to enrich my life with meaningful new challenges. There will be more opportunities to go abroad and encounter the wide world. I am already looking forward to having enough courage to greet the world.

## \* Park Gyeong-jin

In 2023, everything's amazing. I haven't done much yet, but it's been two years since I became an adult. I happened to join The Argus and wrote an article already! I'm looking forward to the next 10 months maybe because the first two months of 2023 have not been that bad. I'll write articles that I'll be proud of, right? It seems that a new beginning changes from fear to pleasure only at the end of the beginning. I'm still scared, but time will pass anyway, so what can I do?



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