

# The Argus

No. 548 MARCH 11, 2025

Since 1954

Emergency Martial Law After 45  
Years, Korea Standing at the  
Crossroads of Presidential  
Impeachment

In-depth Analysis of the Key Issues  
in President Yoon Suk-yeol's  
Impeachment Trial

Anxious Citizens, Unpredictable  
Political Situation: What is the  
Solution for Korea's Better Future?

Presidential Impeachment,  
Lessons Connecting the Past and Present

More Than Just a Decision,  
A Step Toward Korea's Democratic Maturity



# The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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

- *President and Publisher* ..... Prof. Park Jeong-Woon
- *Executive Editor* ..... Prof. Lee Herim
- *Copy Readers* ..... Prof. Merrilee Brinegar  
Prof. Joseph R. Vincent  
Prof. Chris Kobylinski
- *Editor-in-Chief* ..... Park Se-eun (R-3)
- *Associate Editors* ..... Kim Si-yon (EICC-2)
- *Staff Reporters* ..... Kwon Yu-jin (E-2)  
Jang Ye-ryn (LD-2)
- *Editorial Consultants* ..... Kim Yi-eun (E-3)  
Kim Su-yeon (IS-4)
- *Illustrator* ..... Kim Doeun

107, Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea  
(Postal Code 02450)

Tel: (02) 2173-2508 Fax: 2173-2509

81, Oedae-ro, Mohyeon-eup, Cheoin-gu, Yongin,  
Gyeonggi Province, Korea (Postal Code 17035)

Tel: (031) 330-4113

Printed by HONG DESIGN | Tel: 464-5167 Fax: 464-5168

## Editorial

# From Disarray to Discovery

Chaos always gives birth to a new order, and change holds opportunities for a better future. In these turbulent times, we move forward with the values we cherish and the potential we can discover by being open to what lies ahead. Crisis and innovation, coupled with reflection and understanding, are simultaneously our questions and answers for a better society.

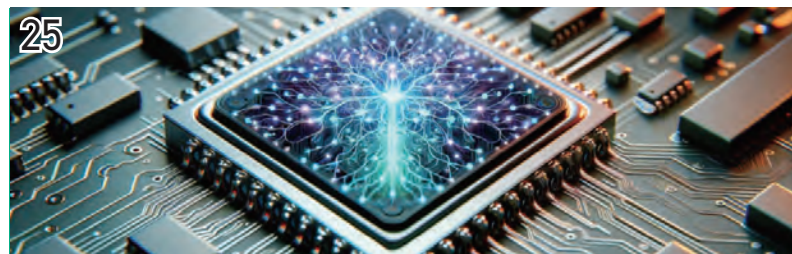
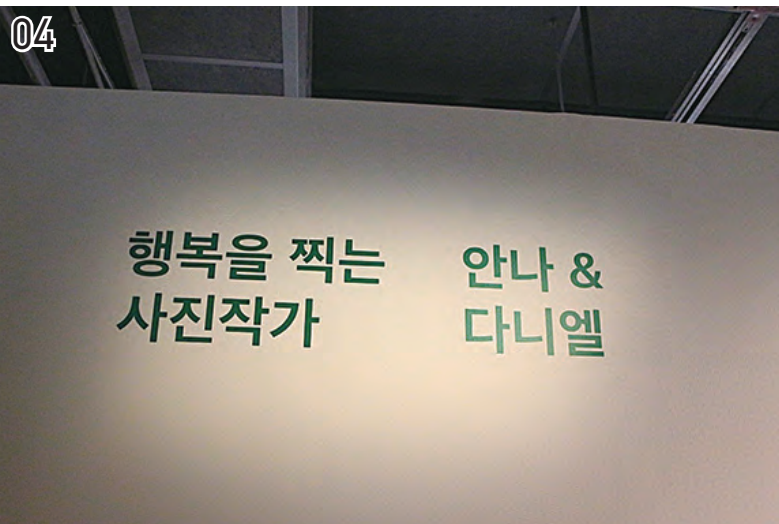
This March issue encourages us to contemplate “how to change” in this era of crisis, and at the same time, “what to preserve.” Innovation is often evaluated solely in terms of speed and results during endless competition, and reflection is often ignored under the name of “stagnation.” However, change without direction ends up as unstable chaos. As such, reflection is essential as the compass for that change. Without the question, “Why and for what should we change?” innovation is nothing more than aimless movement. Innovation is a tool for development, not a goal. Also, there are things to preserve even in the midst of change. Order is not a framework that hinders innovation but a pillar that supports society and helps us all move forward together. It is that order that becomes stronger when we understand and work with others. Efforts to appreciate each other infuse diversity and empathy into the process of change, making innovation for everyone, not just a few.

Today’s society demands a new balance amidst rapid change and complex problems. Politics and institutions must create stable order through trust, and human rights and equality must open the way for more people to participate in society. Considering the history of President Yoon Suk-yeol martial law incident and the impeachment system makes us reflect on what role the system should play in times of crisis. The story of women’s rights and social advancement shows how coexistence leads to social innovation and development. Technological innovation becomes a tool for a better future for humanity. Our daily lives should allow space where we discover the precious values of life even in a rapidly passing era. Happiness found in the tedium of daily life awakens us to the essence of life that can be discovered through reflection even during great upheaval. In a chaotic era, the question of what we should preserve and what we should adjust becomes even more important.

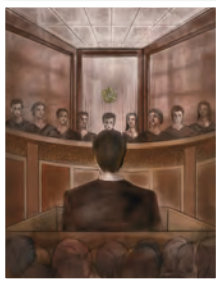
Chaos is frightening, but only those who do not stop questioning find opportunities within it. Change is unfamiliar, but when we face it with an open mind, new paths are opened. In uncertain times, if we all ask questions and seek answers together, that will be the first step toward a better tomorrow.

By **Park Se-eun**  
Editor-in-Chief

박세은



# CONTENTS



## Cover Story

>> Forty-five years after the last martial law declaration in 1979, another incidence of emergency martial law was declared, and for the first time in constitutional history, a sitting president was arrested and indicted. Amidst the daily deluge of information surrounding the president's impeachment, the public feels more anxious than ever about the unpredictable political situation. With predictions that the impeachment trial results will be released around mid-March, this article aims to examine the precedents of previous presidential impeachments in South Korea, delve into the core issues of President Yoon Suk-yeol's impeachment trial, analyze the debates surrounding it, and identify areas of the current impeachment system that need improvement.

## 02 · News Desk

### Culture Section

## 04 · Culture Trip

1,2,3 Shoot! Capturing the Moment of Happiness with Happygraphers, Anna & Daniel

## 10 · Gemini

Inside 2000s' Iconic Films: Women's Stories and the Truth Within

### Social Section

## 17 · Cover Story

Presidential Impeachment: A Look at the Past and Present

### Theory & Critique Section

## 25 · Prometheus

Core of the Semiconductor Revolution: GPU and NPU

## 32 · Epilogue

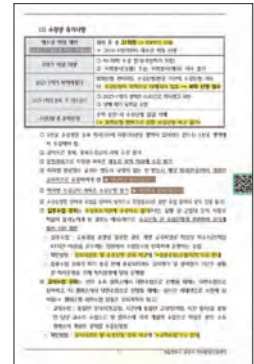
The First Step Forward

## AI Major Implements Cross-Campus Course Enrollment

Beginning in 2025, the AI major will offer its specialized tracks — Language & AI, Software & AI, and Business & AI — on both the Global Campus and the Seoul Campus. A cross-campus enrollment system has been introduced, allowing students to take courses from tracks not available at their home campus.

Previously, course offerings were unevenly distributed, with the Seoul Campus primarily providing courses in the Language & AI track and the Global Campus focusing on the Software & AI track. This imbalance made it difficult for students to take courses aligned with their academic interests and, in some cases, restricted their ability to choose certain tracks altogether. Key courses available for cross-campus enrollment include Advanced Python Programming, Computer Mathematics, Data Structures, Probability and Statistics, Introduction to Business AI, Business Analytics, AI Marketing, and etc.

Through this system, students at the Seoul Campus can enroll in courses from the Global Campus online, eliminating the need for physical relocation to complete their desired track. Seo Mi-kyung, a sophomore who is double majoring in Business & AI said, “As a student, I find it a great decision to implement this system because I can take courses like ‘Introduction to Business & AI’ and ‘Business AI Mathematics’ online without having to commute to the Global Campus. If the online cross-campus enrollment system had not been introduced, I would have had to spend more than four hours just traveling between the Global and Seoul campuses.”



©Hufs 2025 Course Catalog

▲ Students can find detailed information about lectures that allow cross-campus enrollment on page 10 of the 2025 Course Catalog of Hufs.

By Kwon Yu-jin

creamjin0310@hufs.ac.kr

## HUFS Tuition Hike Controversy: Education Improvement vs. Student Opposition

HUFS has decided to increase undergraduate tuition by 5 percent. At the Jan. 20 Tuition Review Committee meeting, the Budget Coordination Team Leader Stated that the University raised tuition to advance education and research quality.

Recently, several universities in Seoul, including Kyung Hee University, Korea University, and Yonsei University, have raised their tuition fees by more than 4 percent, reflecting a broader trend in higher education. HUFS is following this trend as part of its efforts to secure financial stability and strengthen its academic infrastructure. The Budget Coordination Team Leader stated that the additional revenue will be reinvested in enhancing laboratory and practical training facilities, establishing and supporting new departments, and expanding scholarship programs to improve learning conditions and offer students a wider range of academic opportunities.

However, the 59th General Student Council, Bakdong, has strongly opposed the decision, criticizing the Budget Coordination Team for failing to adequately gather student opinions before implementing the tuition hike. Bakdong argued that raising tuition to address financial deficits is not a sustainable solution and urged the university to increase investment from its foundation and explore alternative financial strategies. Furthermore, Bakdong emphasized that the tuition hike must be accompanied by tangible improvements in the educational environment to be justified. Bakdong also called on the Budget Coordination Team to ensure greater financial transparency and make more responsible decisions. Therefore, for the tuition increase to serve as a measure to enhance the quality of education rather than merely a means of financial recovery, the university administration must strengthen communication with students and clearly present the improvements in the educational environment.



©Instagram @hufsstudent

▲Bakdong is informing students about the university's progress regarding tuition increases through Instagram.


By Kwon Yu-jin

creamjin0310@hufs.ac.kr

## HUFS CKLC Offers Group Registration for Alien Registration Card

The Center for Korean Language and Culture (CKLC) at HUFS Seoul Campus is now accepting online applications for group Alien Registration Card (ARC) issuance for newly admitted international students during the spring semester. This is to ensure convenience for international students.

The CKLC is conducting this group registration to provide a more convenient and certified process for students. This service is available only to students who have entered Korea before the application deadline and hold a D-4 visa. Those who need an ARC must apply within the designated period. The application submission period is Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. to Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., for the first round, and March 10 at 9 a.m. to March 21 at 6 p.m. for the second round. Eligible applicants must prepare the required documents, including residence documents, an ID photo, a copy of their passport, a certificate of enrollment, and a GKS scholarship certificate. The ARC issuance fee is 50,000 KRW (US\$34.51).

The CKLC emphasized the benefits of group registration, stating, "This process is much easier than applying individually. Through this service, students can avoid document preparation hassles, as applications are handled by an agency. While an additional service fee applies, it significantly simplifies the registration process." This allows newly admitted international students to complete their ARC registration more efficiently and focus on settling into their academic and daily lives in Korea. Students who wish to apply can find detailed instructions and submit their applications at the following link: <https://hirevisa.com/hufsccklc>. 



▲ Students can see the detailed application procedure on the CKLC website.


By Jang Ye-ryn

[jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr](mailto:jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr)

## HUFS Reduces Graduation Credits, Sparks Student Concerns

Starting in 2025, HUFS will lower the required graduation credit from 134 to 126 for incoming students from 2025 and onward. Alongside this change, new foundational courses for freshmen have been introduced. However, this adjustment has resulted in the cancellation of existing major courses, affecting current students.

The issue became particularly evident during the course registration process for the 2025 spring semester, which began on Feb. 3, as upper-year students struggled with limited course availability. In response, the 59th General Student Council, Bakdong, raised concerns in a meeting with the university's academic affairs director on Feb. 4. Bakdong also addressed curriculum-related issues in a recent council meeting, highlighting students' difficulties in securing required courses. While the university considered applying the reduced graduation credit requirement to current students, it ultimately deemed it unfeasible due to administrative constraints and precedents from other institutions.

Regarding the unfair systemic reform, Kim Su-in, a sophomore studying language and diplomacy, expressed her frustration, stating, "I couldn't register for a major course required for graduation. Many juniors and seniors also faced the same difficulties, making me anxious about future semesters." Furthermore, she voiced concerns about future course registration, saying, "If I fail to secure a spot during the additional enrollment period, competition will only intensify in later years." In order to ensure the academic rights of current HUFS students and their access to desired courses, the university and its students should communicate regularly. 



▲ Students can access Bakdong's meeting minutes via the Instagram link: [linktr.ee/hufstudent59](https://linktr.ee/hufstudent59).

By Jang Ye-ryn

[jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr](mailto:jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr)



# 1,2,3 Shoot! Capturing the Moment of Happiness with Happygraphers, Anna & Daniel



By Jang Ye-ryn

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“I want to show that anyone can find beauty in the ordinary things around them.” These words come from Spanish photographers Anna Davis and Daniel Rueda in their exhibition, *Happygraphers, Anna & Daniel*. Through their work, they capture happiness in everyday objects and spaces, encouraging people to rediscover the beauty of the simple moments often overlooked in the fast pace of modern life. Many believe that economic security is a key determinant of happiness, assuming that material wealth guarantees emotional stability and fulfillment. However, in 2024, although South Korea ranked 13th in the world in terms of GDP, it was only 52nd out of 143 countries in the United Nations’ happiness index. Additionally, Nobel Prize-winning economist Daniel Kahneman found that increasing income does not necessarily lead to greater happiness. This lack of correlation between income levels and well-being raises fundamental questions about the true nature of happiness and how it can be attained. The Argus, in celebration of the International Day of Happiness on March 20, explores how Anna and Daniel express happiness through their exhibition, reminding readers that joy can often be found in life’s simplest moments.



## [Before Reading] Anna Davis and Daniel Rueda



©Seoul Arts Center website

▲Daniel Rueda (top) holds a camera, and Anna Davis (bottom) poses with a smile.

Anna Davis and Daniel Rueda were born in Valencia, Spain, in 1990. They studied architecture at the Universitat Politècnica de València, where they developed an eye for structure and design. Using their architectural background, they travel the world searching for unique buildings which serve as canvases for their artwork. Unlike many contemporary photographers, Anna and Daniel strictly avoid

Photoshop in their creative process. Instead, each of their photographs begins with detailed sketches, followed by handcrafted props and carefully chosen locations. They shoot primarily in natural light, relying solely on composition and perspective to bring their ideas to life. In 2020, Forbes\* named them among the “Forbes 30 Under 30” Europe Class of 2020 in the Arts and Culture category.

\*Forbes: Forbes is an American publishing and media company known for its annual Forbes 30 Under 30 list, which recognizes 1,230 influential individuals under 30 across 20 industries, including arts, technology, finance, and entertainment.



## [Viewing Information]

- **Location:** Hall 7, Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center (10-minute walk from Exit 5 of Nambu Bus Terminal Station)
- **Period:** 2024.12.21-2025.03.30 / Closed every Monday
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Last admission 6:20 p.m.)
- **Admission Fee:**
  - Adults: 15,000 won (US\$10.41)
  - Infants, children, and teenagers: 10,000 won (US\$6.94)

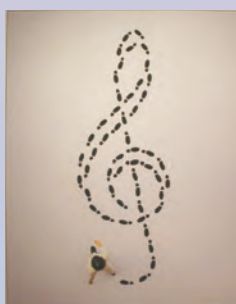


## Section 1

## ¡Música, Maestro! Everyday Happiness Expressed Through Music

The central theme that visitors encounter upon entering the *¡Música, Maestro!* section is Anna and Daniel's world of music woven into regular days. Pastel pink wallpaper envelops the space in this section, and paintings with playful titles hang as if welcoming visitors. The artists present works that express the idea that music is a constant presence in life, and they visually interpret musical elements. These works convey that life is more beautiful because of music, and music becomes more special because of life.

Turning right past the wall displaying Anna and Daniel's introduction, the first thing that catches the eye is a trail of Anna's footprints shaped like musical notes. This is "Sing the Song, Walk the Beat" (2023), which, as its playful name suggests, gives the impression that music flows with every step she takes. Anna's rhythmic and melodic steps seem synchronized with the beat, her movements blending seamlessly with the music, naturally drawing viewers in. The artist visualizes rhythm and beat through simple footprints, illustrating how music accompanies each step and conveying that life has a rhythm. Through this work, Anna invites viewers to reflect on the rhythm of their own lives and discover their distinctive melodies.

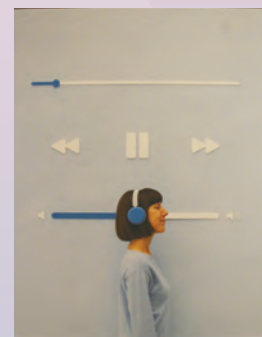


▲Sing the Song, Walk the Beat (2023)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

A familiar music playback screen floats on a pastel blue background. A long progress bar stretches across the top while rewind, stop, and fast-forward buttons are arranged below. However, the volume control bar at the bottom presents an unexpected twist. At its midpoint, Anna, wearing blue headphones, sits smiling with her eyes closed, completely immersed in the music. Even her clothing matches the background, giving the impression that she has become one

with the music. "On Repeat" (2023) conveys that music is not just an auditory experience, but rather — it permeates daily life, helping people joyfully endure repetitive routines. Individuals have their favorite playlists, carefully chosen based on their mood or surroundings. Beyond merely consisting of simple melodies, music evokes emotions and memories, becoming the soundtrack of people's lives. Through this piece, Anna highlights music's transformative power, emphasizing that happiness might be closer than people think — perhaps as close as curating the perfect playlist to brighten the day.



▲On Repeat (2023)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

Anna takes this idea further, suggesting that even natural sounds that are often overlooked can be a music source. In "Sea Sharp" (2023), she is depicted conducting the rhythmic crashing of ocean waves, blending music with the majestic sea view to create a rich sensory experience. Against a striking contrast of blue ocean and pink wallpaper, this work conveys a sense of freshness and serenity. The title, *Sea Sharp*, is a clever wordplay substituting "sea" for the musical note "C." Understanding this linguistic nuance makes the work even more engaging, as the artist invites viewers to listen to the sea's symphony. The word "sharp" itself implies intensity, and Anna's dynamic gestures as she conducts the waves evoke the grandeur of an orchestral performance. Throughout this section, which playfully captures the sounds of everyday life, the artists emphasize that music extends beyond song. It exists in the small, often-overlooked sounds of life. Even these subtle aural pleasures contribute to happiness.



▲Sea Sharp (2023)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus



## Curiocities: Transforming Ordinary Structures in Urban Cities into Art

### Section 2

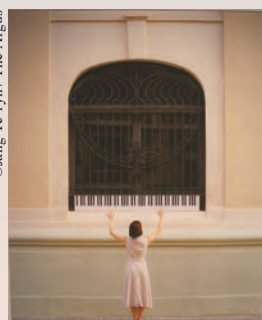
The second section, *Curiocities*, is a portmanteau of “curiosity” and “cities.” As the name suggests, it is filled with images of urban landscapes worldwide. Unique structures, clean lines, and soft pastel hues create an elegant and playful atmosphere. Anna and Daniel’s deep appreciation for architecture is evident in their photographs, illuminating the hidden beauty of mundane spaces often taken for granted. In this section, architecture is not merely a background but an integral part of the artwork, as the artists explore each city’s character and uncover unexpected visual elements within its structures.

A small tree leans in front of a warm, beige building, and beside it, Anna mirrors its stance with her hands clasped behind her back. This is “Similaritree” (2019), photographed in Valencia, Spain, their hometown. The art piece’s setting is a typical apartment complex, a street countless people pass by daily. However, where others see a familiar scene, Anna and Daniel see artistic potential. Who would have thought that an unnoticed tree could inspire a world-class piece of art? In “Window Sonata”



▲Similaritree (2019)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus



▲Window Sonata (2024)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

(2024), another Valencia-based work, piano keys handcrafted by the artists are placed on a railing beneath an arched window with black iron bars, creating the illusion that the window is part of a grand piano. Dressed in a soft pink dress, Anna playfully positions her hands on the “keys,” inviting viewers to imagine the silent melody. While most people walk past countless windows

daily without a second thought, Anna and Daniel reimagine them as elements of artistic expression. Even in their most familiar surroundings, they uncover fresh perspectives, proving that inspiration can be found anywhere.

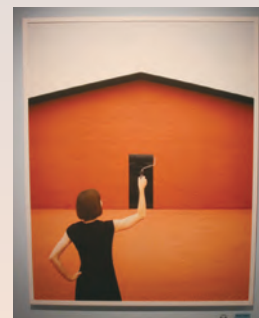


▲Peek-a-Book (2019)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

If familiarity with a place makes it difficult to notice new details, why not explore somewhere different? Anna and Daniel travel the world in search of architectural landscapes that serve as canvases for their creativity. In “Peek-a-Book” (2019), shot in Doha, Qatar — a city where modern skyscrapers coexist with traditional Islamic design — Anna playfully hides behind a green book and blends with the uniformly arranged square windows. At first glance, the geometric repetition appears purely architectural, but for Anna, it conjures childhood games of hide-and-seek. By merging human presence with the city’s structured patterns, this work transforms the mundane into a whimsical scene of interaction between people and space.

Their architectural journey continues at the Vitra Design Museum in Germany, a place that showcases world-renowned architects’ works. Here, using their creativity, they unconventionally celebrate its beauty. In “Better in Black” (2023), Anna appears to paint the building’s black doors herself, creating an optical illusion that challenges the viewer’s perception of space and reality. This playful manipulation of perspective invites audiences to see buildings as not just static structures but interactive spaces filled with creative potential. Through this section, Anna and Daniel redefine the ordinary. They transform nameless, commonplace buildings into subjects of art by adding narratives that make them



▲Better in Black (2023)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus



extraordinary. Their message is clear; life becomes more prosperous when we assign meaning to even the most minor things. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through smartphones while walking, why not take a moment to observe the surrounding buildings, trees, and patterns? Ultimately, as Anna and Daniel demonstrate, shifting perspective is all it takes to make life more joyful and inspiring.



### Section 3

### Ideas Come True: Adding Imagination to Everyday Objects

Another creative section awaits as Anna and Daniel finish their journey through different cities, uncovering hidden moments of happiness in architecture. The third section, *Ideas Come True*, invites viewers to see unremarkable objects in a new light. In this section, routine items are transformed, taking on fresh meanings. The artists combine paper props and the human body to create unexpected visual surprises, challenging perceptions of what is familiar.

Balloons are a childhood favorite, present at every birthday party, and often tied to nostalgic memories of accidentally letting one go at an amusement park. “Blown Away” (2023), one of the first works in this section, plays with this idea. In the piece, Anna appears to be floating, her waist seemingly tied to the strings of a pink balloon.

However, upon closer inspection, her feet are nowhere to be seen. Is she standing on the ground or being lifted into the air? There is no definitive answer. Depending on the viewer’s perception, Anna can symbolize hope and freedom, or it may be that she is helplessly drifting away, carried by forces beyond her control. This nature of the piece being so open to interpretation is what makes it so fascinating, provoking each



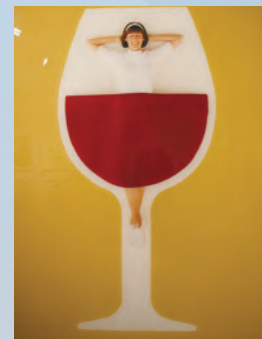
▲Blown Away (2023)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

viewer’s thoughts and emotions.

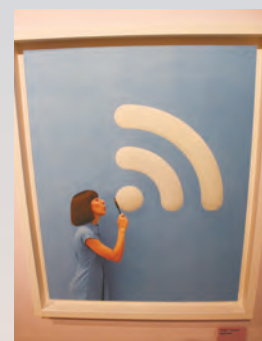
To the right, a striking image of a transparent glass filled halfway with deep red wine catches the eye, but as one steps closer, an unexpected twist emerges. At a distance, “Wine Not?” (2021) appears to showcase a glass of wine, its rich color demanding attention. However, upon closer inspection, the wine transforms into a soft, velvety blanket that wraps around Anna. With this illusion, the artists demonstrate that the meaning of an object can shift depending on how it is perceived. Wine is often associated with both celebratory moments and small everyday indulgences. Through works that change meaning depending on the viewer’s perspective, Anna and Daniel playfully remind the audience that perception is fluid and can constantly be reimaged.

Anna puckers her lips against a light blue background and blows a stream of soap bubbles. As the bubbles spread, they take on the distinct shape of a Wi-Fi signal. This is “High-Speed Bubbles” (2022), a work that cleverly visualizes the concept of modern connectivity. The artists use the fleeting nature of soap bubbles to represent Wi-Fi signals, highlighting how both are omnipresent yet invisible forces in daily life. By shaping something as ephemeral as soap bubbles into a universally recognized digital symbol, the work encourages viewers to reflect on how technology has seamlessly integrated into their existence. Unlike before, Wi-Fi is now as essential and ever-present as air itself. The ingenuity of this piece lies in the artist’s ability to draw a



▲Wine Not? (2021)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus



▲High-Speed Bubbles (2022)

©Jang Ye-ryn / The Argus

connection between two seemingly unrelated elements and present them in an entirely new context. Continuing through the exhibition, visitors encounter “Orange Pantsicle” (2024), a piece that plays with another everyday delight: ice cream. At first glance, it appears to be a simple orange popsicle, but upon closer inspection, Anna is subtly camouflaged within the composition. The orange ice cream part of the popsicle aligns perfectly with her orange T-shirt, while the wooden-colored popsicle stick seamlessly blends with her brown pants. Just as with “High-Speed Bubbles,” this piece encourages viewers to take a second look, revealing an entirely new dimension hidden in plain sight.



▲Orange Pantsicle (2024)

Anna and Daniel’s works are designed to tell stories that prompt a moment of pause, a smile, and a fresh way of seeing the world. They clearly demonstrate that familiar objects do not always have to remain the same. With different perspectives, even the most ordinary things can be transformed. Visitors may find themselves looking at their surroundings with newfound curiosity when they leave this section. Whether standing still and examining a piece of art for an extended amount of time or engaging in discussions with others about hidden meanings, the exhibition invites creativity to flourish — making life feel a little more magical.



### Section 4

#### What the Hat?!

#### The Infinite Transformations of a Hat

As its playful title suggests, the final section, *What the Hat?!*, is filled with astonishing hat transformations. Entering this section, visitors are encouraged to become detectives — on the lookout for hats that have been wittily hidden or disguised

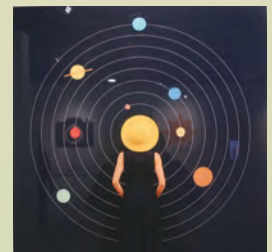
in unexpected ways. What comes to mind when one thinks of a hat? Some may see it as a practical item for warmth, while others may view it as a stylish accessory that completes an outfit. However, in the hands of Anna and Daniel, a hat is no longer just a piece of clothing; it becomes whatever the imagination allows.

The top of a large gift box is the first thing that stands out. A neat red bow is intricately tied on the lid, creating the appearance of a beautifully wrapped present. However, upon closer inspection, viewers notice Anna in the center of the ribbon’s knot, holding up a red hat. In “Fabowlous” (2021), the hat seamlessly integrates



▲Fabowlous (2021)

with the bow, becoming part of the decoration. Initially, it looks like a simple ribbon, but a second glance reveals how a small, unexpected detail can transform the entire image. The following artwork takes visitors beyond Earth and into the vastness of space. A solar system stretches across the composition, with the sun at its center, encircled by orbiting planets. Still, something feels amiss. The sun is actually a hat perched atop someone’s head. In “Spacecial” (2019), a yellow hat takes on the sun’s role, illuminating a dark and infinite universe. When a common object becomes the heart of the cosmos, it suddenly assumes a new level of significance.



▲Spacecial (2019)

As visitors continue searching for hidden hats, they encounter a serene landscape captured in a film photograph. The image showcases a clear blue sky with the sun shining above a mountain peak. At this point, the audience may begin to wonder; is the sun also a hat? Sure enough, in “Oh Snap!” (2024), the sun is revealed to be a perfectly placed yellow

hat, blending seamlessly into the natural surroundings. Unlike previous works, in which the hat is playfully integrated, this piece makes it feel as though the hat inherently belongs in the scene, creating a visual harmony that captivates the viewer. As the hunt for hats intensifies, they appear in unexpected places, including food.



▲Oh Snap! (2024)

A photograph of an avocado might initially seem normal, but soon, its brown seed catches the eye. In “Hatvocado” (2021), the brown hat replaces the avocado seed, sitting snugly at the center.


Just below, another curious transformation awaits: a plate of fried eggs. In “Eggcellent” (2017), the yolk appears perfectly round, but upon closer examination, it is revealed to be an orange hat. The whimsical idea of a hat looking “delicious” brings an element of humor to the piece. What makes this section truly special is how the hat remains an accessory throughout the



▲Hatvocado (2021) (top) and Eggcellent (2017) (bottom)

works in that it is either worn by Anna or held in place. Yet the viewer no longer perceives it simply as a hat. Instead, the hats adopt new identities, adapting to different shapes, colors, and surroundings. They seamlessly merge with their environments, transforming into artistic objects with entirely new meanings.

A visitor to the exhibition, Park Mi-seon, said, “This exhibition made me realize that happiness can be found in the little things in a monotonous life. I was particularly impressed by how musical notes, pianos, and architectural elements were reimagined in unique ways. Seeing these transformations helped me appreciate how art can be found in the most unexpected places.” She also added, “The vibrant use of primary colors made the artworks even more striking, and the joyful expressions of the artists in the photos added to the exhibition’s uplifting atmosphere.” Anna and Daniel’s works embody their belief that happiness exists everywhere, and noticing this simply requires a shift in perception. By transforming the ordinary into something extraordinary, they break stereotypes and invite viewers to embrace different interpretations of the familiar. Their positive outlook, combined with their original ideas, is reflected in their art and how they present their perspective to the world.

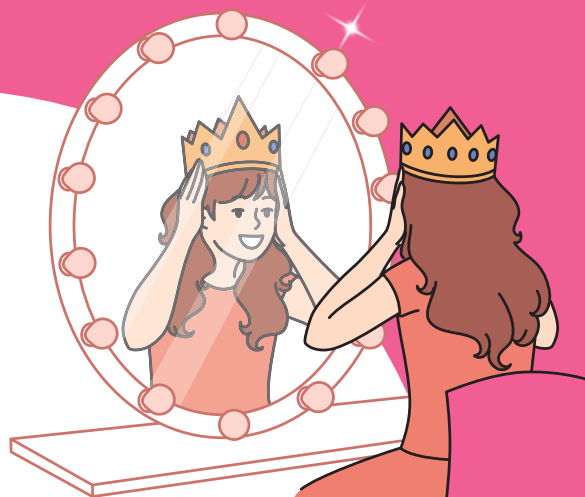
Anna and Daniel’s exhibition unfolds through inventive storytelling, capturing the beauty of natural simplicity, the joy found in everyday encounters, and the uniqueness hidden within the ordinary. In particular, their artworks, which transform commonplace objects into something special, reflect this perspective, demonstrating that even the most mundane things can hold new meaning. Happiness is not solely derived from noticeable achievements or exceptional experiences but can begin when one views things with fresh insight and appreciates the small joys of daily life. Their exhibition does not merely convey this message, but it actively invites visitors to experience it firsthand. As viewers explore the four sections, they are encouraged to step beyond conventional boundaries, unleash their creativity, and embrace a sense of freedom. Amid today’s fast-paced society, the exhibition offers a moment of pause, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in a world where imagination thrives and life’s simple pleasures take center stage. 

*jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr*



# Inside 2000s' Iconic Films: Women's Stories and the Truth Within

By Jang Ye-ryn  
Staff Reporter of Culture Section



“Okay, she’s tough, but if Miranda were a man...no one would notice anything about her except how great she is at her job.” This line from *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006) encapsulates the film’s core message. It reflects the ongoing disparities in how society perceives female leaders and how women’s careers are judged differently than those of their male counterparts. In celebration of International Women’s Day, this column examines two films highlighting women’s growth and leadership: *Legally Blonde* (2001) and *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006). In *Legally Blonde*, Elle Woods defies stereotypes to become a successful lawyer, while Miranda Priestley in *The Devil Wears Prada* maintains her dominance in the fashion industry despite societal scrutiny. Both characters embody different facets of female leadership, reflecting the increased participation of women in the workforce and shifting societal expectations in the 2000s. The Argus goes beyond a comparative analysis of the women in the two films to shed light on past and present society and to consider the direction Korean society should take concerning women’s rights.

## Summary



### *Legally Blonde* (2001)

The film begins with the protagonist, Elle Woods, being dumped by her longtime boyfriend, Warner, simply because she is “too blonde.” When Warner tells Elle that her being a dumb blonde will not help him succeed, Elle is determined to win him back. She applies to Harvard Law School, where Warner is enrolled, and gets accepted with an almost perfect score. At Harvard, Elle faces judgment from her classmates, who see her only as a stylish and frivolous blonde. Isolated among those who judge her based solely on her appearance, Elle refuses to be discouraged. She continues to study diligently and eventually secures an internship at Professor Callahan’s law firm alongside Warner and his fiancée, Vivian. Elle is assigned to defend Brooke, a woman accused of murdering her husband. With no one believing in Brooke’s innocence, Elle works tirelessly on her own to uncover an alibi and solve the case. Despite the doubts surrounding her abilities as a blonde and a rookie lawyer, Elle remains steadfast in her defense of Brooke and ultimately wins the case. The film ends two years later, showing Elle delivering the valedictorian speech at her graduation ceremony.



▲ *Legally Blonde* is a 2001 American comedy film about Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon), a fashionable sorority queen who proves she is more than just a blonde.



### *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006)

Andy Sachs, a recent graduate of a prestigious university with dreams of becoming a journalist, unexpectedly lands a job as the assistant to Miranda Priestly, the editor-in-chief of *Runway*, the top fashion magazine in the industry. At first, Andy sees

Miranda as nothing more than a boss notorious for her perfectionism. Miranda completely disregards Andy and assigns her only menial tasks, such as fetching coffee and delivering meals. However, frustrated by Miranda’s dismissive attitude, Andy becomes determined to prove herself. She starts paying attention to fashion — something she had previously ignored — and demonstrates impeccable work efficiency, eventually earning Miranda’s approval. As Andy grows closer to Miranda, she begins to see a different side of her boss. She realizes that Miranda has spent her entire career hiding her vulnerabilities to maintain her powerful position in the industry. Seeing Miranda’s struggles, Andy becomes confident that she does not want to live a life where she has to suppress her true self to maintain authority. In the end, Andy quits her job as Miranda’s assistant to pursue her dream of becoming a journalist, securing a position at a prestigious New York newspaper.



▲ *The Devil Wears Prada* is a 2006 American comedy-drama film, starring Meryl Streep (L) as Miranda Priestly and Anne Hathaway (R) as her assistant, Andy Sachs.



## Similarities



### Successful Women in Their Careers

The late 1990s and early 2000s marked a time when women began entering the labor market in earnest. In line with this trend, the protagonists of the two films, *Legally Blonde* and *The Devil Wears Prada*, are successful women in their respective fields.

In *Legally Blonde*, Elle Woods confidently gains admission to Harvard Law School with a near-perfect LSAT\* score of 179 out of 180. Once at Harvard, she continues to study diligently, earning the trust of her professors and securing an internship

at a prestigious law firm. After winning a significant trial, the film jumps ahead two years to Elle delivering the valedictorian speech at the 2004 Harvard Law School graduation. Typically, the valedictorian is the student with the highest academic achievement, indicating that Elle was the most outstanding law graduate in her class. During her introduction, a professor announces that Elle has received a job offer from one of Boston's most prestigious law firms upon graduation. The film concludes with the expectation that she will go on to build a successful career in the legal field.

Similarly, Miranda Priestley in *The Devil Wears Prada* has successfully solidified her position as the most influential figure in the fashion industry. As the editor-in-chief of *Runway* magazine, Miranda is a perfectionist who misses no detail. The moment she enters a photoshoot, the entire staff freezes, awaiting her instructions. With a single glance at a model's styling, she gives a subtle nod or gesture, prompting immediate adjustments to fittings and set arrangements. Miranda's ability to identify necessary changes at a glance highlights her exceptional fashion sense and keen judgment. Furthermore, her commanding presence and ability to exert control with mere eye contact demonstrate her immense authority and influence in the fashion world. However, the success stories of Elle and Miranda, which represented the aspirations of women at the time, were far from the realities of the era.

The 2000s, when Elle and Miranda were building their careers in the legal and fashion industries, respectively, were a time of growing female participation in the labor market, continuing a trend from the 1990s. In the United States, where both films are set, the women's labor market was undergoing a significant shift. According to a report by the Korea Labor Institute, *Trends in Women's Economic Participation and Policy Implications in an Era of \$20,000 Per Capita Income* (2004), women's participation in economic activities and employment rates had significantly improved between the 1980s and early 2000s in major developed countries, including the U.S., leading to a major transformation in the employment structure. The report notes that women were no longer confined to specific job categories, but were increasingly entering traditionally male-dominated professions such as professional and managerial roles. This shift contributed to a general reduction in occupational gender segregation.

Behind these societal changes was government intervention through policy. The report highlights that the U.S. successfully increased labor market participation among highly educated women by significantly reducing the gender wage gap. Additionally, in major developed countries, including EU nations, part-time work was recognized as a worker's right, with priority given to employees responsible for childcare.

Since the mid-2000s, South Korea (hereafter Korea) has experienced similar industry-specific shifts in female employment, albeit slower than the U.S., leading to policy challenges. According to the report *Characteristics and Recent Changes in the Women's Labor Market* (2014) by Jung Sung-mi, a research fellow at the Korean Women's Development Institute, the number of employed women increased by 10.2 percent between 2005 and 2013, with significant growth in professional, scientific, public administration, and social service sectors. Despite this numerical increase, Korean society had yet to fully develop adequate social systems or public awareness to support female employment. According to the report *Social Perception and Women Entry into the Workforce* (2008), by Hwang Mi-hwa, head of the Employment Support Team at the Gyeongnam Changwon Woman Employment Support Center, career interruptions for women in Korea remain deeply entrenched, with many women choosing to abandon reentry into the labor market after a career break. This phenomenon stems from Korean society's failure to provide an environment where married women can balance work and family life.

However, Korean society is evolving, and policies are being implemented to improve working conditions and welfare for female employees. Chang Ji-yeun, a senior researcher at the Korea Labor Institute, explains that "for the past 20 years, the most focused policy in Korean society regarding women's labor welfare has been childcare support policies." She further states that Korea "has a significant employment rate gap between women with and without children compared to other countries," adding that "prioritizing childcare support policies was a reasonable policy decision." Nevertheless, additional policies are still needed to expand female employment opportunities further. Researcher Chang asserts that, "Currently, many women are engaged in part-time or freelance jobs. Therefore, policies should focus on improving



the quality of these jobs to make them better employment options.” For example, she suggests policies such as “providing incentives for companies to hire part-time workers as full-time employees and offering unemployment benefits and vocational training to freelancers who are temporarily out of work due to a lack of assignments.” Through such additional policy changes, Korean society must work toward providing women with greater opportunities to contribute as professionals in the workforce.

\*LSAT: Law School Admission Test, an exam administered by the Law School Admission Council for admission to law schools in the United States, Canada, and Australia.



### Media's Consumption of Women

The two films highlight Elle, dismissed solely based on her appearance despite her exceptional abilities, and Miranda, known only as a ruthless and intimidating woman. Through this, they present a critical perspective on how the media portrayed women in the early 2000s, the era in which these films are set. In particular, *Legally Blonde* constructs its story and direction based on the stereotype and preconceived notion that “blonde women are dumb,” which was widely held by the public at the time. According to the book *Toxic: Women, Fame, and the Tabloid 2000s* (2024), by Sarah Ditum, the U.S. media in the 2000s had a strong tendency to commodify celebrities, especially female celebrities, distorting or reducing their true selves based on their appearance or image. There is no fundamental problem with the public consuming a particular image that a celebrity deliberately promotes. The real issue arises when a celebrity is confined to that image, treated as less than an actual person, and forced to conform to a media- and public-created persona.

A prime example of a female celebrity who suffered under the notoriously harsh media landscape of the 2000s is Britney Spears, a global pop star and Hollywood icon of the era. To capture public attention, the media flooded the public with paparazzi photos and false rumors about her. Britney, who skyrocketed to fame upon her debut in 1998, was instantly portrayed by the media as a “sex symbol.” She later earned the title of “pop princess,” enjoying unparalleled popularity, but at the same time, she was subjected to societal expectations to

maintain perfect beauty and femininity. Whether she wanted it or not, the media had already framed her as a “sex symbol.” This is similar to how the press in *The Devil Wears Prada* framed Miranda as “the dragon lady, career-obsessed,” casting her as a cold and ruthless woman. Britney was consumed by pop culture as a sexualized figure, while Miranda was defined as an emotionless, career-driven woman.

The media’s harassment of Britney reached its peak during her short-lived marriage, subsequent divorce, and custody battle. The documentary episode “Framing Britney Spears” from *The New York Times Presents*, released on February 5, 2021, reveals that the primary causes of Britney’s deteriorating mental health were the intense media spotlight, the commodification of her private life, and sensationalized reporting. The media focused excessively on her romantic relationships, appearance, and family issues, turning her struggles into entertainment for the public. In *The Devil Wears Prada*, Miranda expresses similar concerns when she remarks, “Another divorce splashed across *Page Six*,” fearing that the media would prioritize coverage of her private life over her professional achievements. This mirrors Britney’s struggle with the media’s relentless scrutiny of her personal affairs. Ultimately, both women were defined not by their accomplishments but by the media’s framing of them through specific images and personal scandals, which prevented their authentic influence and talents from being fully recognized.

Despite the public witnessing firsthand the negative impact of framing women in this way, the problem persists today. The number of paparazzi following celebrities may have decreased, but now nearly everyone owns a smartphone, turning ordinary individuals into paparazzi who generate countless rumors. According to the study report *2024 Broadcast Media Consumption Behavior Survey* conducted by the Korea



▲ Britney Spears frequently appears on celebrity magazine covers, with magazines exploiting her private life with headlines like “Mommy’s Crying” and “Britney’s Meltdown” to attract readers.

Communications Commission and the Korea Association for ICT Promotion, 95.3 percent of Koreans owned a smartphone in 2024. As a leading digital powerhouse, Korea faces challenges in controlling online rumors' rapid spread and consumption. The bigger issue is that people consume information superficially, making little effort to distinguish between fake news and factual reports. Unfortunately, these tragedies will continue as long as digital media exists and the public engages with it indiscriminately. However, if people consciously try to adopt a critical perspective, filter the information they consume, and verify facts, they can help curb the spread of unchecked rumors and contribute to a healthier media environment. Only when individuals take responsibility for fact-checking and exercising discernment in their media consumption can the cycle of female victimization be broken.

\*Page Six: A prominent American entertainment and gossip news section known for covering the personal lives, scandals, and romantic affairs of Hollywood stars, fashion industry figures, and influencers.

## Differences



### Responses to Social Prejudice

Miranda and Elle face social prejudice throughout their respective films, yet they respond to it differently. Rather than rejecting the discrimination against her, Miranda chooses to fortify herself within its framework. She willingly embraces the label of a “cold-blooded boss” and secures her position by maintaining strict emotional control and a perfectionist attitude. When she tells Andy in Paris, “I can just imagine what they’re going to write about me... I don’t really care what anybody writes about me,” she appears composed in the face of criticism. Yet, when she later says, “But my, my girls, it’s just so unfair to the girls... Another father figure... Gone,” and finally sheds tears, it reveals a more vulnerable side beneath her cold exterior. As she faces her third divorce, Miranda’s concern for the emotional toll it may take on her daughters shows that her rigid demeanor is, in fact, a defense mechanism and a survival strategy.

In contrast, Elle takes a bold and proactive approach, directly confronting and overturning the biases against her. At Harvard Law School, she is viewed as frivolous simply because of her

love for flashy pink fashion. However, toward the film’s end, Elle confidently walks into the courtroom as Brooke’s defense attorney, fully dressed in pink — from her dress and shoes to her handbag — symbolizing the unapologetic embrace of her identity. Elle does not conform to societal expectations but asserts herself with confidence. Moreover, Elle’s extensive knowledge of fashion and beauty, initially mocked by her Harvard classmates as superficial, ultimately becomes her advantage. This is best illustrated in the courtroom scene, where she uses her expertise to expose a flaw in a witness’s testimony. The witness, Brooke’s stepdaughter, claims that she was in the shower washing her hair at the time of the gunshot and, therefore, did not hear it. However, Elle recalls that the witness had testified earlier to having gotten a perm that morning. Leveraging her beauty knowledge, Elle points out that chemically treated hair should not be washed for at least a day, exposing the stepdaughter’s perjury. When asked afterward how she knew the witness was lying, Elle confidently responds, “The rules of hair care are simple and finite! Any Cosmo girl would have known.” Through this, Elle proves to those who underestimated her that her passion for beauty and fashion was not a weakness but the very reason she won the case. This scene suggests that qualities traditionally associated with women can be a strength rather than a barrier to success. Ultimately, Miranda chooses to mold herself to fit societal expectations, while Elle remains true to her individuality, overcoming prejudice and proving her worth in her own way.

Before the rise of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, particularly in the entertainment industry, successful women had few platforms in which to express themselves freely and were often unable

to escape social expectations. Against this backdrop, Paris Hilton’s emergence in early 2000s American society was sensational, as she appeared to embrace these perceptions rather than reject them. In the 2003 reality show *The Simple Life*, which depicted wealthy heiresses struggling with low-wage jobs, Paris Hilton quickly garnered attention for her



▲ Paris Hilton (R) wears an all-pink outfit in the opening scene of *The Simple Life*.

portrayal as a rich blonde beauty oblivious to “ordinary people’s” lives. Recognizing what the public wanted, she transformed her image, personality, and style into a brand, crafting the character of the “blonde heiress.” Like Elle, Paris openly embraced traditionally feminine traits with confidence. She often appeared in paparazzi shots wearing all-pink outfits, from pink tracksuits to pink dresses, showcasing her self-assuredness in using public perception to her advantage. Furthermore, like Elle, Paris was far more intelligent than she let on. The fact that she convincingly played the role of a dumb blonde and fooled the public only highlights her strategic acumen. As a businesswoman, she expanded into various industries, including fragrances, clothing, and accessories, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. Through her efforts, Paris became one of the defining fashion and pop culture icons of the 2000s. From today’s perspective, she is a pioneering woman who subverted societal stereotypes to build her own brand, making her achievements even more meaningful.

Today, with the development of internet platforms, self-branding has surged. In her paper, “The Self-Branding Practices of the Internet BJ and the Construction of Intimacy Between” (2018), Professor Kim Su-jeong of Chungnam National University’s Department of Communication argues that the real transformation in celebrity identity came with the advent of internet-based social media, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. While Britney Spears and Paris Hilton were confined by media framing in the 2000s, today’s female celebrities have far more control over their image and branding, thanks to the internet. Among social media platforms, YouTube has been particularly instrumental in ushering in a new era of self-branding. According to WiseApp Retail Goods, YouTube ranked first in domestic smartphone app usage time in April 2024, with a 33.6 percent share in Korea. YouTube is revolutionizing how viewers consume media, democratizing content creation, and reshaping the distribution structure of broadcast content. A prime example is Korean singer and actress Suzy, who actively communicates with her audience through her YouTube channel. In addition to her appearances in mainstream media as an actress and singer, Suzy creates diverse content on YouTube, including travel vlogs and behind-the-scenes footage, offering fans a

glimpse into her everyday life. This demonstrates how YouTube and other social media platforms have become essential tools for celebrities to establish their own identities and cultivate relationships with the public on their terms.



▲ Suzy's official Youtube channel, despite having only 12 videos, has attracted 545k subscribers, showing that her simple and genuine daily life resonates well with the public.



### Contrasting Leadership Styles

Miranda and Elle not only respond to social prejudice differently, but also exhibit starkly contrasting leadership styles, particularly when faced with career-threatening situations. Throughout the film, Miranda demonstrates an individualistic and isolated leadership approach, relying solely on herself to handle challenges. She maintains no personal relationships with colleagues, including her assistants, Andy and Emily, as she focuses solely on work. Toward the film’s end, she even sacrifices her colleague Nigel’s promotion to protect her position. Miranda anticipates Jacqueline’s move to replace her as *Runway*’s new editor-in-chief, so she preemptively announces Jacqueline as the creative director of James Holt — a position initially promised to Nigel. This decision portrays Miranda as a cold and authoritarian leader who prioritizes self-preservation over loyalty to her colleagues. In contrast, Elle takes a more collaborative and empathetic leadership approach. She visits Brooke to inquire about her alibi, keeping it confidential despite pressure from the defense team. Elle’s dedication to earning her client’s trust leads her to protect Brooke’s secret while proving her innocence. Even Vivian, who was initially hostile toward Elle, respects her sincerity and warmth. Unlike Miranda, who remains distant from her colleagues, Elle fosters trust and camaraderie, proving that leadership can thrive on cooperation rather than isolation.

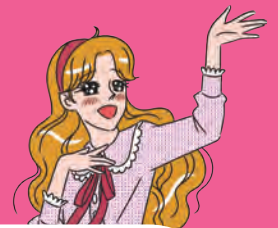
Yoon Myung-hee, a graduate student specializing in business administration at Honam University, states in her paper, “Effect of Woman’s Leadership on Members’ Job Attitudes” (2023), that female participation in the workforce is steadily




increasing, along with growing interest in utilizing female talent. She emphasizes that leadership styles like empathy, flexibility, and democracy — such as Elle’s — positively influence employee motivation and productivity. However, Korean society remains harsh in its perception of female leaders. Professor Baek Pyoung-gu of Kookmin University notes in his paper, “Exploring Female Managers’ Views on Their Leadership Barriers: Using Q Methodology” (2022), that despite the positive impact of female leadership, many organizations still hold biases against women in leadership roles. He explains that Korea’s rigid corporate culture and longstanding practices make it difficult for women to rise to leadership positions. Furthermore, he highlights how male-dominated leadership environments often perceive women as outsiders, making promotions more challenging.

Even when women successfully attain leadership roles, they face another double standard. Professor Baek argues that female leaders often experience subtle yet persistent discrimination, commonly called microaggressions. While these biases may not be overt, they result in constant scrutiny and skepticism toward female leaders, preventing them from escaping unfair evaluations. The way female leadership is

judged often follows contradictory standards. Andy’s comment in *The Devil Wears Prada* suggests that if Miranda’s charisma and strong leadership had come from a man, she would have been perceived as a “decisive leader.” However, because she is a woman, she is instead labeled as cold and ruthless. On the other hand, female leaders who demonstrate warmth and empathy — like Elle — are often seen as lacking authority and competence. This means that women are criticized for being either too authoritarian or soft, forcing female leaders to balance strength with warmth constantly. The key issue is that discussions about women’s career challenges should not focus solely on individual experiences, but should also acknowledge the broader structural barriers they face. Professor Baek argues that individual effort alone cannot overcome these systemic challenges, as they are deeply ingrained in organizational culture. Therefore, corporate leaders and Human Resource (HR) professionals must recognize these issues and actively work toward solutions. He also emphasizes the need for expanded networking opportunities for female managers and customized career development programs at different career stages to support women in leadership positions.



These two defining films of the 2000s, *Legally Blonde* and *The Devil Wears Prada*, highlight female growth and leadership differently. They cleverly depict the successes of Miranda Priestly and Elle Woods while illustrating how society holds women to different standards than men. As of 2025, women’s economic participation rate in Korea has increased compared to the early 2000s, yet numerous structural issues remain unresolved. The gap between the narratives portrayed in media and the realities of working women has yet to be fully bridged. It is essential to go beyond simple “success stories” and instead foster an environment where women can grow in their own way. To achieve this, societal perceptions must move away from fixed stereotypes and toward a broader respect for diversity in leadership and professional success. 

*jangyeryn@hufs.ac.kr*



# Presidential Impeachment: A Look at the Past and Present

**By Kim Si-yon**

*Associate Editor of Social Section*

“**I** declare martial law to protect the Republic of Korea from the threats of North Korean communist forces, to immediately eradicate the unscrupulous pro-Pyongyang anti-state forces that pillage the freedom and happiness of our people and to protect free constitutional order.” On December 3, 2024, at 10:27 p.m., President Yoon Suk-yeol declared emergency martial law through an unannounced press conference. Following this announcement, the entrances to the National Assembly (hereafter Assembly) were secured by police, and military units were deployed to the site. This turmoil was resolved at 4:20 a.m. when President Yoon acquiesced to the Assembly’s requests for the lifting of martial law. It was the most critical six hours in Korea’s history, with significant repercussions. Subsequently, President Yoon was impeached by parliament and suspended, and became Korea’s first sitting president to be arrested. Now, legal experts are forecasting that the results of the impeachment trial shall be announced around mid-March. The Argus aims to thoroughly examine the precedents of previous presidential impeachments in South Korea (hereafter Korea), the central issues at stake in President Yoon’s impeachment trial and identify the necessary improvements to the current impeachment system by analyzing the debate surrounding the president’s impeachment.

## The Impeachment System in Korea: Checks and Balances Against Abuse of Power



The impeachment system in Korea is a process by which high-ranking public officials, who have committed misconduct that is difficult to prosecute through ordinary judicial or disciplinary procedures, can be punished or removed from office. It serves as a critical institutional mechanism to protect the country's laws and Constitution, prevent abuse of power, and ensure that all public officials are accountable to the people in accordance with the Constitution and laws. Article 65 of the Constitution stipulates that the president and other public officials designated by law, including the prime minister, and those in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, may be subject to impeachment for violating the Constitution or other Acts in the performance of their duties. The current Constitution establishes a joint impeachment system between the Assembly and the Constitutional Court (hereafter Court), prescribing the Assembly's power to impeach in Article 65 and the Court's power to judge impeachment in Article 111, Paragraph 1, Item 2. Accordingly, the Assembly is in charge of impeachment prosecution, and the Court is in charge of impeachment trials.

Article 7 of the Constitution defines public officials as "servants of the entire people," meaning they must be accountable to the public. Therefore, when public officials violate the Constitution or laws, the Assembly, as a representative body of the people, is granted the power to impeach, allowing the people to hold public officials accountable. To initiate an impeachment motion, at least one-third of the members of the Assembly must sign it, and the motion must be passed by a majority of the members present. In the case of the president, who is a high-ranking public official, an impeachment motion requires the signatures of a majority of the members of the Assembly and the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present. This is because the impeachment of the president, as the head of state, is considered a more serious matter, requiring a higher level of support from the Assembly. Once an impeachment motion is passed by the Assembly, the president's exercise of all powers is suspended until the impeachment trial ends. The impeachment trial begins when the Assembly's standing

committee, Legislation and Judiciary Committee, submits a certified copy of the impeachment resolution to the Court. The Court is composed of nine justices, and an impeachment decision can only be made with the approval of six or more justices. If the impeachment is upheld as a result of the trial, the public official is removed from office, and if the impeachment is rejected, the public official can continue to serve. The impeachment system is a method used to withdraw the trust from those elected through the Assembly, directly demonstrating that the foundation of Korea is representative democracy and popular sovereignty.



## The Third Presidential Impeachment: What Changed in Korea's Impeachment Process?



▲ On March 9, 2004, members of the Assembly propose a motion for impeachment against then President Roh Moo-hyun.

Former President Roh Moo-hyun was the first president to stand trial after the enactment of the Constitution of Korea. While the impeachment system has been defined in the Constitution as an important means of control by the Assembly over the executive and judicial branches, it had previously been merely symbolic. However, the impeachment motion against former President Roh, which was passed on March 12, 2004, showed that the impeachment system could be a powerful sanction against illegal activities committed by officials in the executive and judicial branches. The Assembly passed the impeachment motion arguing that President Roh's public declaration of support for the Uri Party violated Article 60 of the Public Official Election Act, which stipulates who cannot conduct election campaigns. The Article restricts election campaigns for national public officials, and the president is a political appointee under Article 2 of the



National Public Officials Act. As it was the first time an impeachment motion had been passed, detailed matters of the impeachment procedure had not been clarified in related laws. In addition, since there was no precedent to refer to, various questions were raised regarding the impeachment system at that time.

One of the debated points was the extent to which the autonomy of the Assembly should be respected. According to the *Court's precedent collection, Vol. 16, No. 1*, the Court did not raise issue with the fact that the Assembly did not conduct investigations and discussions on the grounds for President Roh's impeachment, citing respect for the Assembly's autonomous interpretation of the law. The Court considered whether or not to conduct an investigation into the grounds for presidential impeachment is an autonomous right of the Assembly, based on the current National Assembly Act Article 130, Paragraph 1, which states that the Legislature "may conduct an investigation" into the reasons written in the proposition for the president's impeachment. However, questions were raised as to whether the impeachment prosecution procedure should be stricter, as it involves judging the head of state. Furthermore, there were differing opinions on the scope of the principle of due process, which is an independent constitutional principle established to protect individual rights. Article 12 of the Constitution states that all citizens can have their lives, liberty, and property infringed upon by public power only when in accordance with the law and legal procedures. In a 1992 ruling, the Court expanded this scope of application of the principle of due process to include not only individual citizens but also state institutions, encompassing all state actions. However, in the 2004 decision on the impeachment trial of President Roh, it defined the principle of due process as a principle that state institutions must observe for the citizens when exercising public power. The scope of application of the principle of due process was narrowed down again to individual citizens. Because of this, the Court concluded that since the impeachment prosecution procedure is a trial between two state institutions, the Assembly and the president, does not fall under this principle. This is because the Court ruled that the president stands as a state institution, not as an individual citizen in the impeachment trial as a defendant. It was argued that the Court did not

provide a reasonable justification for limiting the scope of its application, and that the impeachment prosecution procedure should also follow the principle of due process.

The Court's view that the principle of due process does not apply to the impeachment prosecution procedure and that the Assembly's review and investigation of the grounds for impeachment are up to its discretion was maintained even in the 2017 impeachment trial of President Park Geun-hye. The Assembly impeached



▲ On March 10, 2017, the Court decides to uphold the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye.

President Park, alleging that she had involved Choi Soon-sil, a private acquaintance, in important decision-making, including personnel rights as president and state affairs management. Subsequently, President Park lost the presidency and this was the first case of a sitting president being removed since the Constitution was enacted. Unlike the Roh Moo-hyun impeachment trial, the Park Geun-hye impeachment trial involved fact-finding and evidence examination through pleadings, as the president's abuse of power violated criminal law provisions. Due to this, issues regarding the scope of application of the Criminal Procedure Act in the impeachment trial procedure were raised in the legal community. Article 40 of the Constitutional Court Act stipulates that the laws and regulations concerning criminal procedures shall be applied with the necessary changes to impeachment trials, but it does not specify when the Criminal Procedure Act should be applied, so the need for clarification had emerged. The ambiguity of the criteria for determining the severity of a legal violation by the Court in the two impeachment trials was also a subject of debate. Choi In-hwa, a senior researcher at the Sogang University Law Research Institute, argues in her paper "Problems and Improvement Measures of the Presidential Impeachment Trial System - Focusing on the Roh Moo-hyun and

©SBS News

Park Geun-hye Impeachment Trial Cases” (2019) that the Court does not provide specific arguments on what “severity” means, and argues that a detailed explanation of this is legally necessary. This is because the Court decided that both President Roh and President Park violated the Constitution, but it dismissed President Roh’s impeachment while upholding President Park’s, due to the difference in the severity of the acts. The current impeachment trial of President Yoon is the third in Korean constitutional history, and attention is focused on whether answers to these problems will be presented this time, not only in the legal community but also in the general public.

### Points of Contention: President Yoon Suk-yeol’s Impeachment Case



Article 65 of the Constitution specifies the requirements for impeachment prosecution as “when the President has violated the Constitution or laws in the performance of his duties.” Researcher Choi explains that “duties” in “in the performance of his duties” is interpreted as all actions or activities that are necessary or accompany the position by virtue of laws, ordinances, or administrative practices and customs under the legal system. Next, the Constitution specifies the grounds for impeachment as being “when violating the Constitution or laws.” Researcher Choi says that this includes not only constitutional provisions but also unwritten constitutional law. Unwritten constitutional law refers to the law formed and established by the decisions of the Court. The “laws” also include formally enacted laws and international treaties, emergency orders, and those that have the same effect. To summarize, an impeachment trial determines whether the grounds for impeachment stated in the indictment issued by the Assembly are illegal acts committed by the president during the performance of his duties. In the case of the current impeachment trial of President Yoon, the Assembly cited three reasons for the impeachment prosecution of President Yoon: president’s declaration of the emergency martial law is unconstitutional, the president did not follow legal procedures when declaring it, and the mobilization of military and police to block the entry of Assembly members into the Assembly. Accordingly, in the impeachment trial of President Yoon, the constitutionality

of the martial law declaration itself, the constitutionality of the martial law declaration procedure, and the illegality in the process of implementing martial law are the main contentions.

### 1) A Step Too Far? Questioning the Grounds for Martial Law



▲ President Yoon Suk-yeol declares emergency martial law on December 3, 2024.

As the impeachment prosecution against President Yoon was triggered by his declaration of martial law on December 3, the first issue in the impeachment trial is the legality of the president’s declaration of martial law. Article 2 of the Martial Law Act states that martial law may be declared by the president for the purpose of fulfilling military necessity or maintaining the public security and order when there are belligerency or serious disturbances of social order that considerably impede the performance of the administrative and judicial functions of the State in time of war, incident, or any other equivalent national emergency. In a press conference on January 9, 2025, Yoon Gap-geun, a lawyer for President Yoon, explained the reasons for the president’s declaration of martial law, saying that he saw the declaration of martial law as a constitutional authority granted to the president as a way to restore the liberal democratic constitutional order. The president’s side has consistently argued that the declaration of martial law was to protect the constitutional order. According to the *The Korea Economic Daily* on February 6, 2025, Chung Jin-suk, Chief of Staff to the President, also explained that President Yoon’s declaration of martial law was due to the president’s perception that the constitutional order was in great crisis because the opposition party’s indiscriminate budget cuts were carried out, and the legislative power was particularly abused and excessively exercised compared to the executive and

judicial powers. The ruling party, the People Power Party, argues that the people's livelihood has become difficult due to the unilateral reduction and forced processing of the budget bill by the Democratic Party of Korea, which occupies the most seats among the opposition parties. In addition, they said that there were difficulties in running the state affairs due to the Democratic Party of Korea's successive impeachment prosecutions against key personnel appointed by the president. President Yoon judged this situation to be similar to the national emergency as described in the Constitution.

However, the Assembly defined the declaration of martial law as an attack on constitutional order. Kim Yi-soo, a lawyer for the Assembly's impeachment prosecution team, agreed, adding that the declaration of martial law was a fundamental attack on democracy. In addition, the Assembly stated that President Yoon's declaration of martial law was illegal, since it did not meet the requirements provided by the Constitution. The National Assembly Research Service report released on December 11, 2024, said it was difficult to judge that there was a state of chaos as required for martial law at the time it was declared, and it was clear that there was no national emergency situation such as war or a similar incident. Regarding the excessive budget cuts, which the president cited as the main reason for declaring martial law, the Democratic Party of Korea explains that the 2025 government budget bill, which was cut, has no impact on the operation of state affairs. According to *No Cut News* on Dec. 9, 2024, Ahn Do-geol, a representative of the Democratic Party of Korea, explained that 70.6 percent of the reduced budget is concentrated on reserve funds prepared for unforeseen expenditures unrelated to the people's livelihood and the cost of repaying treasury bond interest. There is no explicit provision in the current law as to what a national emergency is, nor is there a precedent that specifically explains its meaning. For this reason, in the current impeachment trial of President Yoon, depending on which side's argument the Court accepts, the standard for interpreting a national emergency will be established for the future, and it will be decided whether the declaration of martial law constitutes a reason for impeaching the president.

## 2) Martial Law for the People, Was There Deliberation for the People?

The second issue in President Yoon's impeachment trial is whether the president followed the procedural requirements for declaring martial law. The Constitution specifies the legal procedures that the president must follow when declaring martial law. According to Article 89 of the Constitution, the president must go through the deliberation of the State Council before declaring martial law. The State Council, as the highest policy deliberation body under the Constitution, convenes important state policies with the attendance of more than half of the members and must pass resolutions with the approval of two-thirds or more of the attending members. All deliberation matters discussed in the State Council must first be formally submitted as agenda items by the president, prime minister, and state councilors, and for important matters, review opinions necessary for the deliberation must be disclosed and submitted together. In addition, the Constitution requires that the minister of Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) must prepare the minutes of the State Council meeting. Seo Jeong-bin Partner Attorney at Law Firm Soul, explains the reason why the Constitution specifically regulates the legal procedures that the president must follow when declaring martial law, saying, "As martial law has a high possibility of infringing on the basic rights of the people and there is a considerable risk of it being abused as a means of strengthening the president's power, prior deliberation is intended to carefully review the validity of martial law." However, on January. 4, 2025, the special investigation headquarters of the prosecution investigating the 12.3 emergency martial law incident announced that the State Council meeting held before the declaration of the martial law was an insufficient deliberation.

According to the prosecution, President Yoon summoned state councilors, including then Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, on the day of the martial law declaration, but he did not inform them of the clear reason for the summons. Later, at around 10:17 p.m., President Yoon held a State Council meeting in the reception room and then left the reception room at around 10:22 p.m. to announce a public statement declaring martial law. The prosecution believes that a normal deliberation was not conducted in this five-minute State Council meeting and views the



five minutes as too short for those who attended the State Council meeting to grasp the reason for the summons and the matters of the agenda. In addition, the prosecution confirmed that the minutes of the State Council meeting were not written at all on this day. However, President Yoon refuted the prosecution's claim saying that they distributed the martial law declaration statement to the state councilors and deliberated on it. The president also argued that he delayed the declaration of martial law until the quorum was filled and sent documents for writing the minutes to the MOIS, on December 6, 2024. Regarding this, at the 7th pleading date of the impeachment trial on February 11, 2025, former Minister of MOIS Lee Sang-min acknowledged some shortcomings in the State Council meeting for the martial law declaration decision but insisted that a substantial State Council meeting was held. On this day, Attorney Yoon voiced his support for former Minister Lee's claim, saying, "The minutes are written not immediately but after a few days, but because of the start of the internal strife after the lifting of martial law, an environment was created where it could not be written, so it was delayed." Attorney Seo said, "In addition, if martial law, which can severely restrict the basic rights of the people and is only possible under strict requirements, is declared without even going through the deliberation of the State Council, it is highly likely to be judged as a serious violation of the Constitution and the law." As the purpose of impeachment trial is to judge whether the accused violated the Constitution and the law and whether it is a serious enough violation to lead to dismissal, the outcome of the impeachment trial will depend on how broadly the Court interprets the scope of normal deliberation of the State Council under the Constitution.

### 3) Restoring Order or Silencing the People?

The third issue in President Yoon's impeachment trial is the constitutionality of the measures taken after the declaration of martial law. One hour after the declaration of martial law, the Martial Law Command issued Martial Law Decree No. 1. After the announcement of the decree, the martial law forces arrived at the Assembly, broke the glass windows, and entered the main building. Article 1 of the announced Martial Law Decree No. 1 explicitly prohibits all political activities, including the activities



▲ Former Minister of National Defense Kim Yong-hyun (R) testifies in the impeachment trial of President Yoon Suk-yeol (L).

of the Assembly and local councils, political parties, and political associations. Article 77, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution stipulates that when martial law is declared, the Martial Law Command, which commands the martial law forces, may take special measures with respect to the necessity for warrants, freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association, or the powers of the Executive and the Judiciary under the conditions as prescribed by the Act. This is to protect the country from crisis by allowing the military to quickly respond to the situation when the administrative and judicial functions of the state are extremely paralyzed. The Assembly argues that the series of measures taken by the Martial Law Command after the declaration of martial law deviated from the meaning of national protection and instead attacked the Assembly, the representative body of the people. However, Article 77, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution does not apply to the Assembly. This is because the Assembly has the right to demand the lifting of martial law. Jeon Hank-seon, a professor at HUFS Law School, explains, "If such political activities of the Assembly are blocked, the basic rights of the people can be controlled by the military regime, and the martial law situation can be extended indefinitely." Based on this, the Assembly considers the proclamation that specifically prohibits the political activities of members of the Assembly to be unconstitutional.

The impeachment bill against President Yoon passed by the Assembly emphasizes the riot by armed forces. The Assembly argues that the act of invading the Assembly by mobilizing armed military and police is a series of riots that threaten and assault the Assembly and the people. Thirty minutes after the president's declaration of martial law, police personnel were deployed to the Assembly and began controlling its various entrances. Because of this, lawmakers who arrived at the Assembly to vote on the



▲ Police, members of the Assembly, and citizens are in a standoff in front of the main gate of the National Assembly Building.

motion to lift martial law had to climb over the fence to enter. Article 148, Paragraph 3 of the National Assembly Act stipulates that the entry of members into the meeting hall must not be obstructed. Regarding this, Professor Jeon said, “When soldiers and police enter the Assembly, it is to protect the Assembly. It is a clear violation of the Constitution to deploy soldiers and police in a situation where there is no risk factor to the National Assembly.” However, the president’s side argues that this was an act to maintain order. Kim Yong-hyun, former minister of National Defense, who is known to have written Martial Law Decree No. 1, said that the decree was not intended to interfere with the Assembly’s legislation or resolution to lift martial law. In addition, President Yoon’s defense team argued that Decree No. 1 was “copied from the decree of the military regime when the president had the right to dissolve the Assembly,” and that they overlooked the incorrect wording. At the fourth pleading date of President Yoon’s impeachment trial on January 23, 2025, former



▲ Martial law troops enter the Assembly Building in the early hours of December 4, 2024.

Minister Kim argued that the president “deleted the curfew and currency ban parts, saying that this declaration of martial law was to warn anti-state forces, so it should not harm the people.” He claimed that the president minimized the infringement of the people’s basic rights in writing the proclamation. However, according to the

evidence attached by the Assembly’s representative on this day, since no content restricting the authority of the Assembly appeared in any of the six military decrees since 1961, when the first military decree was announced, there was a heated debate over President Yoon’s claims regarding the proclamation. Furthermore, regarding the deployment of armed forces to the Assembly, former Minister Kim explained that it was not for the purpose of blocking the Assembly, but only to stabilize the chaotic order within the Assembly. As the positions of the presidential side and the Assembly are sharply opposed, the Court is expected to thoroughly review the related evidence and legal issues in the future impeachment trial process and make a final decision.



### Challenges of the Korean Impeachment System: Ensuring Stability and Fairness


Article 6 of the Constitutional Court Act stipulates that the Court’s bench shall be composed of nine judges with legal qualifications, who are primarily appointed by the president. However, three of these judges are appointed by the president from those elected by the Assembly, and three are appointed by the president from those nominated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Furthermore, to prevent vacancies among the judges, Article 6, Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Constitution stipulate that successors shall be appointed before the expiration of their terms or the retirement age, and if a vacancy occurs during the term, a successor shall be appointed within 30 days from the date of the vacancy. The timing of the appointment of their successors after the retirement of the three judges in October 2024 has become the biggest variable in the impeachment trial of President Yoon. While the Court has stated that it will continue to hear the case under the six-member system and adjust the final sentencing date depending on when the successor judges join, the conflict among political parties over the appointment of Court justices has intensified.

However, this debate surrounding the current judge system has been deliberated for some time. Vacancies for Court justices have repeatedly escalated into conflicts between the ruling and opposition parties. Regarding the reason why these problems occur, Professor Lee Hwang-

hee of Sungkyunkwan University Law School argues in his paper “Problems and Solutions of the Current Judge System from the Perspective of Impeachment Trials” (2020) that the current law only limits the appointment period for vacancy situations but does not provide institutional solutions. If a judge vacancy occurs due to the expiration of the term, it becomes more difficult to achieve the quorum for the decision of impeachment. Furthermore, Professor Son In-hyuk of Yonsei University Law School explains the reason why the vacancy of Court justices should not be prolonged, saying, “In the case of constitutional trials, Court justices must reflect various national political opinions and values in the constitutional interpretation. If the Court’s decision is made without the appointment of judges and in a vacancy, it may result in failure to reflect the opinions of the people.” Thus, the Court justices are not only the decision-makers of the presidential impeachment trial but also play a role in influencing the direction of future constitutional interpretation.

As possible solutions to this problem of Constitutional Court judge vacancies, the job continuation system and the reserve judge system are being discussed in the legal community. In the job continuation system, the former judge continues to perform his or her duties for the time being until a successor judge is appointed. The reserve judge system is a system in which, a person who will temporarily perform the duties of a judge is appointed in

advance in addition to the judge. Meanwhile, regarding the job continuation system, Professor Son says, “allowing the continued performance of duties until the successor is elected is tantamount to extending the 6-year term stipulated by the Constitution by law, which may raise constitutional issues.” In regards to the reserve judge system, Professor Jeon adds, “implementing this system would be possible only through constitutional amendment.” The current law stipulates that constitutional amendment shall be made by conducting a national referendum on the constitutional amendment bill. However, it is currently impossible to implement a national referendum under the law. This is because on July 24, 2014, the Court ruled that Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the National Referendum Act is unconstitutional, as it has excluded the right to vote of 2.4 million overseas Koreans. If the Court makes a ruling of unconstitutionality, the relevant law is confirmed to be unconstitutional, but its effect is maintained until the deadline by which the Court requests the Assembly to amend the relevant law to make it constitutional. At that time, the Court requested updated legislation by December 31, 2015, but no additional legal amendments were made by the Assembly, and the National Referendum Act lost its effect on January 1, 2016. As such, the improvement of the impeachment system, which is premised on constitutional amendment, is a difficult process, but for the establishment of a more correct constitutional order, efforts and discussions for improvement should not stop.

Impeachment is not simply a process of punishing public officials for their wrongdoings. It is a crucial procedure that reaffirms and restores the exercise of power entrusted by the people, the very foundation of democracy. Eight years ago, Korea witnessed the impeachment of a president through the decision of the Court, confirming the power of democracy. Now Korea is once again engulfed in turmoil. However, this current turmoil can serve as an opportunity to rebuild the foundations of Korea’s democracy, including the impeachment system. Therefore, even amidst the chaotic political situation, constructive discussions for the sake of Korea’s democracy must continue. 

*siyonkim@hufs.ac.kr*





# Core of the Semiconductor Revolution: GPU and NPU

By Kwon Yu-jin

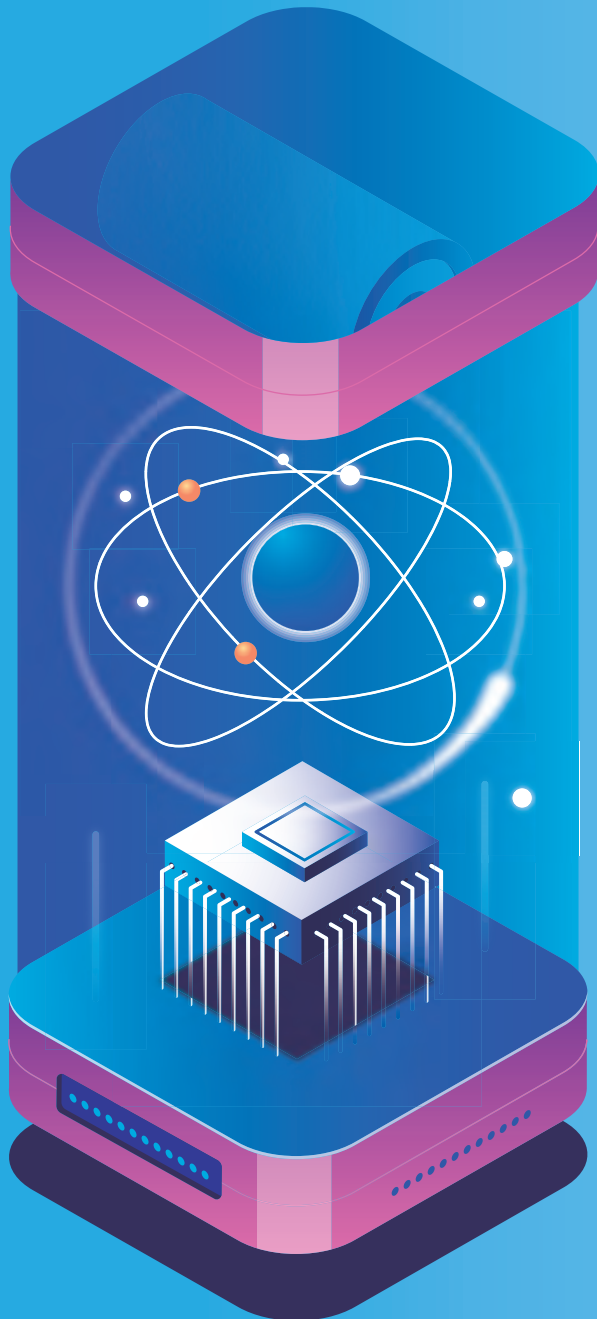
Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Have you ever heard of GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) and NPU (Neural Processing Unit) semiconductor chips? Since the emergence of OpenAI's ChatGPT in 2022, the field of generative AI technology has gone through a period of explosive growth. In January 2025, China's DeepSeek made a generative AI model that utilizes relatively low-spec semiconductor chips. While ChatGPT relies on a dominant technology company in US GPU market, Nvidia's high-performance GPU A100 chips, DeepSeek's model unveiled in January 2025 leverages the more modest H800 GPU. As AI usage becomes increasingly prevalent, semiconductor chips are playing a crucial role in this technological evolution.

In this context, the Nvidia GPU Technology Conference (GTC) 2025, scheduled from March 17 to 21, is attracting unprecedented attention. The emergence of DeepSeek, a generative AI model comparable to ChatGPT, has further amplified interest in AI semiconductor chip technology. This year's Nvidia GTC is expected to shed light on the future of GPU and NPU chip applications, highlighting their potential for technological expansion and advancement. The Argus delves into the concepts and principles of these two semiconductor chips, GPU and NPU, and explore their applications and prospects to provide insights into the future direction of the semiconductor chip industry.

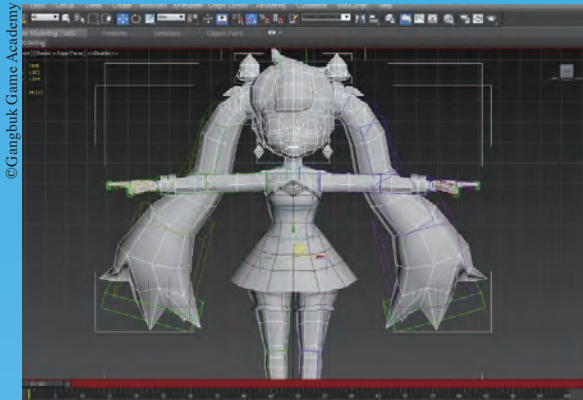
## [Before Reading] What are Semiconductor Chips?

Semiconductor chips are small electronic components that regulate electrical flow and perform calculations. They serve as the "brains" of various electronic devices, including computers, smartphones, and home appliances. Silicon is a primary material used in semiconductor chips. While pure silicon has limited electrical conductivity, the process of "doping" — adding impurities like boron or phosphorus — enables the control of electron movement, allowing electricity to flow or be blocked. Transistors — integrated circuits within semiconductor chips — store information by representing 1 when electricity flows and 0 when it does not. In essence, semiconductor chips use the switching on and off of electrical signals to convert information into digital signals of 0s and 1s. This principle enables computation and data storage in computers, playing a critical role in processing and controlling information in devices ranging from smartphones to automobiles. Prominent examples of semiconductor chips include GPU and NPU.





## Concepts



▲ The animation displayed on the screen is made up of numerous pixels and dots.

A GPU is a specialized electronic circuit designed to rapidly manipulate and alter memory to accelerate the creation of images in a frame buffer intended to be output to a display device. It excels at processing the display of images and videos on a screen. For example, the graphics and animations we see when playing games or watching movies on a computer are made up of numerous tiny dots called pixels. A typical HD screen has 1280 pixels horizontally and 720 pixels vertically. GPUs can create multiple work units called threads and execute them simultaneously. Leveraging this capability, GPUs allocate individual threads to each pixel and process multiple pixels in parallel. First, image data, which contains color information, is loaded into the GPU memory. Then, operations such as color correction or filter application are performed on each pixel simultaneously. Finally, the calculated pixel values are stored in memory, completing the final image. To realize natural movements displayed on the screen, the colors and movements of pixels must be calculated in real-time. GPUs perform many operations simultaneously through parallel processing operations. Beyond simple graphics processing, GPUs play a crucial role in deep learning, enabling computers to recognize and analyze patterns through artificial neural networks that mimic

the human brain, thanks to their high-speed data processing capabilities. For example, when an AI model processes and learns from vast amounts of data, the GPU significantly accelerates learning by performing numerous calculations simultaneously.

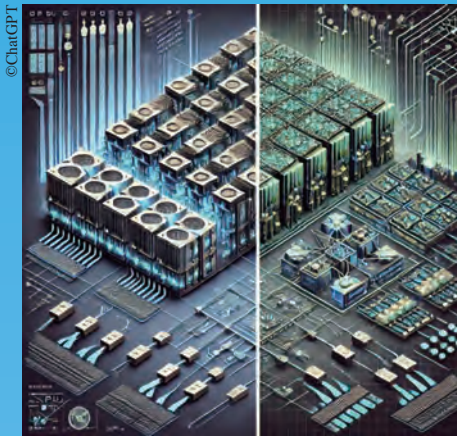


An NPU is optimized for the “inference” process, in which an AI model analyzes and predicts data in real-world scenarios after completing the learning phase in deep learning. NPUs can perform calculations more efficiently than GPUs and are used in specialized sub-fields. NPUs are optimized for AI inference because technologies such as quantization, pruning, and sparsity are applied to significantly enhance computational efficiency and memory usage. First, the quantization technique converts 32-bit floating-point numbers into 8-bit integers for computation. In AI inference, this means that if the weights or activation values have many decimal places, they can be simplified to lower bit integers, increasing calculation speed and reducing memory usage. In addition, the pruning technique minimizes computation by removing unnecessary or low-contribution neurons and weights within a neural network model, the fundamental structure of deep learning. Although neural networks contain numerous neurons and weights, complexity can be reduced and efficiency can be maximized by eliminating elements that do not significantly impact calculation results. Finally, the sparsity technique takes advantage of the fact that only important information among many weights and activation values in a neural network appears as non-zero values. By excluding or lightly processing zero values in calculations, this method reduces overall computation while optimizing memory and computing resource usage.



## Basic Principles of GPU and NPU

### 1) Parallel Processing Operation of GPU and NPU



▲ Both GPUs and NPUs utilize multiple computing units, called cores, to perform parallel processing operations.

The exceptional computing power of GPUs and NPUs, particularly their specialization in parallel processing, enables these semiconductor chips to be widely applied across diverse technology sectors. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a leading organization in setting standards and advancing research in fields such as electrical engineering, electronics, computer engineering, and semiconductors, defines parallel processing as a computing technique that distributes a single problem among the cores of a computing device for parallel execution. This can be illustrated with a simple analogy: one hundred high school students solving one multiplication problem each will complete the task much faster than a single mathematics professor solving one hundred such problems sequentially. To see how parallel processing works in practice, consider rendering a 3D car model on a screen.

First, the vertex data of the model is sent to the GPU, where approximately one million vertices are divided into independent units for processing. Next, each vertex is assigned to one of the multiple cores within the GPU, instructing them to perform operations such as position transformation, lighting effect calculation, and texture coordinate adjustment. All cores simultaneously execute the vertex shader program, performing calculations in parallel, with each vertex undergoing individual

transformation. After the parallel operation is complete, a synchronization process ensures data consistency between vertices, and necessary adjustments are made to ensure consistent application of lighting effects. Finally, the transformed vertex data is converted into a pixel-based image, and the car model is displayed on the screen. Through this process, parallel processing significantly accelerates computations compared to sequential processing, improving both computational speed and efficiency.

### 2) GPU and NPU Calculation Processing Methods:

#### Software and Hardware

While both GPUs and NPUs perform parallel processing, they differ in whether the operations are executed through software or hardware. Performing operations at the software level means that the physical circuits required for the operations are not pre-built into the hardware. Instead, the software determines the calculation methods and instructs the hardware to execute them. For instance, a GPU is hardware designed for parallel processing, but the actual flow of operations and data processing is determined by software programs like Compute Unified Device Architecture (CUDA) and Open Computing Language. This is similar to a manager in a company giving instructions to employees, who then carry out the tasks. The software is analogous to the manager, the GPUs to the employees, and the tasks to the operations. The hardware — the employees or GPUs cannot perform the project — the operation without instructions from the software — the manager. In essence, hardware is a tool for performing operations, while software dictates how that tool is used.

On the other hand, performing operations at the hardware level means that the physical circuits needed for the operations are pre-built into the hardware, and the operations are executed automatically without software instructions. This is the case with NPUs. In AI neural network operations, a large number of matrix multiplication and addition operations are repeatedly performed for the AI model to analyze input data and learn patterns. For example, if an image recognition AI model wants to identify objects in a photo, it must quantify the data and pass it through several layers of the neural network to analyze patterns and extract features.

Because this process requires massive computation, it is more efficient to use an NPU with a hardware structure specialized for neural network operations than simply using a general-purpose computing device like a GPU. NPUs are designed specifically for this purpose. They have built-in physical circuits that process neural network operations like matrix multiplication and addition. So, unlike GPUs, which require software to determine the operation method and issue commands, NPUs can immediately execute operations when input data arrives. If a GPU is like an organization where employees can only carry out a project when the manager gives instructions, an NPU is like an organization designed to allow employees to carry out projects without the manager's instructions. In summary, the software level of a GPU allows for general-purpose computation, meaning it can perform operations arising in various fields with almost no restrictions. In contrast, the hardware level, while superior in terms of speed and efficiency, can only perform operations in specialized fields.

## GPU and NPU: Applications and Principles

### 1) The Role of GPUs in AI Training

GPUs excel in AI training due to their parallel processing capabilities, making them particularly well-suited for deep learning, a subfield of AI. Deep learning enables computers to learn, reason, and make decisions similar to humans by processing data through multi-layered neural networks. These networks consist of an input layer that receives data, hidden layers that refine and extract patterns, and an output layer that generates final predictions. Training a neural network involves two key processes: forward propagation and backpropagation. Forward propagation calculates predictions by passing input data through multiple layers, where weights are applied, biases are added, and activation functions determine the final output. The larger the dataset and the deeper the network, the more computationally intensive the process becomes. GPUs significantly accelerate forward propagation by handling these matrix operations in parallel across thousands of cores.

Backpropagation is the process of adjusting weights to minimize the difference between predicted and actual



▲ In the CNN model, the individual features of a cat that distinguish it from a dog are extracted to derive predicted values.

values, ultimately improving the model's accuracy. This requires extensive matrix calculations, which GPUs efficiently handle through their parallel processing power, drastically reducing computation time. In Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), which are widely used for image classification, input data is represented as three-dimensional matrices — height, width, depth. GPUs optimize this process by rapidly computing these large-scale matrix operations. For example, in an image classification task, if an AI model initially misidentifies a cat as a dog, backpropagation adjusts the weights to prioritize features like the cat's pointed ears over less distinguishing traits. Repeating this process refines the model, allowing it to classify images with increasing accuracy.

While GPUs are optimized for training AI models, NPUs are designed to efficiently execute inference tasks. Once a deep learning model has been trained through forward and backpropagation, it no longer needs to update its weights dynamically. Instead, inference involves applying a pre-trained model to new input data to generate predictions. Unlike GPUs, which handle both training and inference, NPUs focus exclusively on executing pre-optimized models. By leveraging fixed-weight structures, maximizing parallelism, and integrating hardware accelerators, NPUs minimize unnecessary computations, enhancing speed and power efficiency. For instance, in an image classification task, an NPU processes new images using pre-trained weights without the need for backpropagation, allowing for rapid and efficient inference. NPUs are particularly advantageous in applications requiring real-time AI processing, such



as facial recognition, autonomous driving, and edge computing. Their specialized architecture ensures high performance with lower energy consumption, making them ideal for mobile devices and embedded AI systems. While GPUs remain essential for AI training due to their flexibility and raw computing power, NPUs provide an optimized solution for fast and efficient AI inference.

## 2) Multidimensional Use of GPUs

GPUs were originally used as tools for 3D graphics rendering before being applied to generative AI training. Rendering is the process of converting invisible data into visible images, videos, or graphics on a screen. In the graphics rendering process, GPUs perform the calculations needed to compute the color and brightness of each pixel to be displayed on the screen in parallel. In other words, GPUs use parallel processing to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, enabling the rapid processing of numerous pixel operations and the real-time rendering of complex graphics, helping games or videos to run smoothly. In addition, the ability to process numerous objects and textures simultaneously is important in games, Virtual Reality (VR), and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies. To provide users with a realistic experience in high-definition games or VR and AR, numerous graphic elements must be rendered accurately in real time. In game or VR and AR environments, objects displayed on the screen change quickly, and when the camera's point of view changes, new objects or textures must be processed immediately and the graphics updated accordingly in real time. 3D games feature a complex mix of protagonist characters, surrounding environments, skies, buildings, terrains, textures, and other objects. Each of these elements have different characteristics, such as in terms of surface texture and color, so it is important to render them quickly and reflect the changing environment in real time. GPUs have thousands of cores, which serve as computing units that perform different graphics calculations simultaneously, rendering images quickly and efficiently.

GPUs also play an important role in cryptocurrency mining and blockchain validation. Cryptocurrency mining is the process of creating new cryptocurrencies or performing operations to verify that cryptocurrency transactions are correct. The cryptocurrency mining

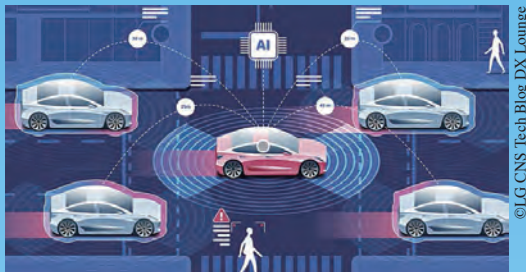
process requires solving complex mathematical problems. When a problem is solved, a block — a bundle of transaction details — is created, and new cryptocurrencies are issued as rewards. At this stage, unlike NPUs that specialize in detailed AI calculations, GPUs — capable of general-purpose computations — can rapidly process large volumes of calculations. As a result, GPUs optimized for parallel operations are used for mining. For example, suppose A sends one bitcoin to B. The miner must verify that A really has one bitcoin and that this transaction has not been manipulated. Once verified, this transaction is recorded in the block, and multiple miners share it together and register it formally on the network. In the blockchain validation process, transaction details collected in this way are gathered to create a block and link it to the previous block. To add a new block, it is necessary to verify that the block is valid, and in this process, the most commonly used method is Proof of Work (PoW). In PoW, a very complex mathematical problem is solved to find a specific number so that the block has a value that satisfies the specified conditions. In this calculation, the GPU efficiently performs cryptographic operations.

Furthermore, in physics simulations, especially in the calculation of molecular-level interactions, GPUs use their high computational speed and parallel processing capabilities to efficiently perform complex calculations. During the simulation setup, the types, quantity, initial positions, and velocities of molecules and atoms — physical systems — are defined. Moreover, physical laws and models, such as Newtonian mechanics and quantum mechanics, which describe particle interactions, are established. In addition, simulation environment conditions such as temperature, pressure, and time intervals are specified. In the subsequent calculation process, the defined system information and interaction model are converted into arrays and matrices in a format compatible with GPU processing and stored in GPU memory. After that, each core of the GPU calculates the force acting on the particles in parallel, updates the position and velocity of the particles based on this, and the calculated results are transferred from the GPU memory to the CPU memory. In the final process of analyzing the results, the stored particle information is visually represented to check the molecular structure or movement path, and physical properties such as energy, momentum,

and structural changes are analyzed. In this process, the GPU significantly increases the calculation speed through parallel processing using thousands of cores and can efficiently process large amounts of data based on faster memory access speed than the CPU.

### 3) Multidimensional Use of NPUs

NPUs excel in voice and image recognition, as well as in Natural Language Processing (NLP), a technology that enables computers to understand, interpret, and respond to human language. For example, in voice recognition, NPUs process voice data and execute large-scale data operations in parallel and at high speed, enabling the conversion of voice commands into text or the analysis of vocal emotions. NPUs are designed to process these tasks at high speed, analyze data in real time, and provide immediate responses. In particular, NPUs enable voice command recognition, translation, sentiment analysis, and question answering systems through NLP. NPUs perform highly optimized operations for NLP. For example, they process complex matrix operations at high speed, which is necessary to understand the relationships between words in large-scale text data, understand the context, and generate appropriate responses.



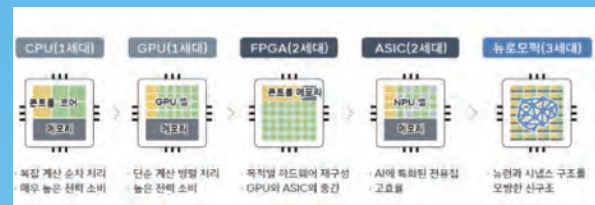
▲ The NPU recognizes and analyzes various objects in real time, such as roads, pedestrians, and traffic lights around the vehicle.

NPUs also play an essential role in running AI functions in devices where battery efficiency is important, such as smartphones and autonomous vehicles. In smartphones NPUs enable various AI functions including face recognition and camera auto focus adjustment. For example, a smartphone's face recognition function allows for quick unlocking when the user holds the phone and positions his or her face in front of the screen. In this process, the NPU processes the face recognition algorithm in real time on the device itself, eliminating

the need to transmit data to a cloud server and enabling an immediate response. This concept is closely related to edge computing, which processes data directly on the device rather than sending it to the cloud. By doing so, response speed is improved, and security is enhanced. For instance, sensitive information, such as face recognition data or voice commands, is not transmitted to an external server but is processed within the smartphone, improving privacy protection. In addition, autonomous vehicles rely on NPUs to process real-time data from multiple cameras, radars, and sensors to recognize the environment and make immediate driving decisions. The NPU is used to detect and analyze various objects around the vehicle, such as roads, pedestrians, and traffic lights, in real time. By processing this data quickly, NPUs allow autonomous vehicles to respond accurately and efficiently to road conditions.



### The Future of GPUs and NPUs in AI



▲ Semiconductor chips are evolving into sophisticated forms that can mimic the neuron and synapse structure in our brains.


Currently, NPUs are considered to have higher power efficiency and computing performance than GPUs due to their structure optimized for specific AI operations. In particular, they are attracting attention for their ability to provide superior performance compared to GPUs in AI inference processes such as speech recognition, image processing, and natural language processing. So, if NPU technology continues to develop in the future, is it possible that it could completely replace GPUs?

According to Professor Yoo Hoi-joon of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at KAIST and his research team students Moon Yu-jin and Jung Chaeyoon, "NPU exhibits powerful performance in resource-constrained environments such as mobile devices, edge computing, and autonomous vehicles through power efficiency and fast parallel processing capabilities. On the

other hand, in environments that require complex learning tasks or various numerical calculations, the versatility and rich ecosystem of GPUs are still superior. No matter how much NPU technology develops, it will be difficult to completely replace the general-purpose computing power, broad software support, and community ecosystem of GPUs.” This essentially conveys that even with continuous advancements in NPU, their progress will primarily focus on enhancing their efficiency and speed in specialized tasks where they are already utilized. So they will not gain the capability to perform the general — purpose computations that GPUs are designed for. They also added, “Instead, NPUs will alleviate the computing burden of GPUs in specific tasks or environments and develop in a direction that improves the efficiency of the entire system by playing a separate auxiliary role in applications where power efficiency is important.” In other words, since there is a fundamental difference in how GPUs and NPUs are used, NPUs can contribute to increasing efficiency by specializing in specific AI tasks, much like an AI cooking expert, but cannot completely replace GPUs, which function more like all-around chefs. Moreover, Professor Yoo and his students said, “In the AI semiconductor market, GPUs and NPUs are highly likely to coexist and develop based on their respective strengths. GPUs will still play a key role in terms of versatility, ecosystem, and flexibility, and NPUs will play a complementary role in terms of power efficiency and specific application optimization.” They predict that as the boundaries between the two semiconductor chips gradually blur, hybrid systems or complementary structures will become the dominant trend.

Meanwhile, Kim Hyung-joon, director of the Next Generation Intelligent Semiconductor Foundation said, “Since Nvidia GPUs occupy about 80 percent of the AI

accelerator market, the global technology development trend is to develop low-power, high-performance NPUs to break away from Nvidia’s dominance. Big tech companies such as Alphabet, Microsoft, Amazon, Tesla, and Apple are developing their own AI chips. NPUs that can reduce Nvidia’s market share will be developed soon, but Nvidia’s GPUs are expected to be the trend for the time being.” He predicted that an NPU capable of replacing GPUs will emerge in the near future. He also said, “As research and development of Korean NPUs is underway by supporting startup companies such as FuriosaAI, Rebellions, and DeepX, we expect that a Korean NPU that can replace Nvidia’s GPU will be released in the market soon.” This indicates that domestic companies are also actively investing in the development and research of NPU chips. If a Korean NPU is successfully developed, it is expected to play a significant role in enhancing national technological competitiveness. This advancement could provide Korea with an opportunity to establish itself as a key player in the global AI semiconductor market. Finally, regarding the relationship between GPUs and NPUs, Director Kim emphasized, “It is meaningless to distinguish between GPUs and NPUs, both are AI accelerators, and strictly speaking, GPUs are AI processing devices that can perform both high-performance learning and inference, and NPUs are devices that specialize in inference and process special-purpose AI models. It would be good to see it as a device.” He stressed that GPUs and NPUs have a complementary relationship, each fulfilling distinct roles as AI accelerators. Ultimately, the future semiconductors will likely involve a synergistic relationship between GPUs and NPUs where their respective capabilities are leveraged to their fullest potential.

GPUs, originally designed for graphics processing, have proven their potential in various fields and are now essential for AI learning. NPUs, with their AI inference-optimized design, have enabled real-time computation. The emergence of these two semiconductor chips has brought about innovative changes in various industries such as medicine and technology. So, how will our daily lives change in the future? As GPUs and NPUs continue to evolve and these technologies merge with other fields, what new possibilities will we encounter? With the pace of technological development accelerating, let’s imagine how these transformative technologies will reshape the future. It is time to recognize that the day is not far off when these technologies will become more deeply embedded in our lives, changing the world in ways we could not have imagined before. 

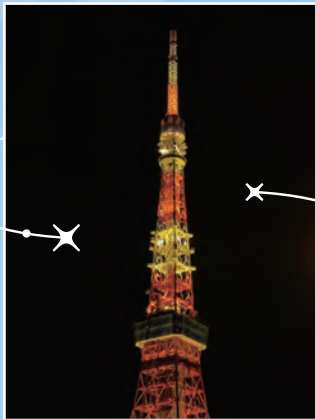
*creamjin0310@hufs.ac.kr*

# The First Step Forward



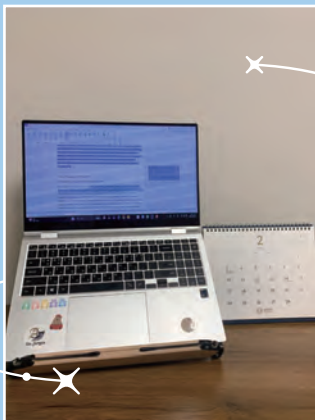
## Park Se-eun

Every time I take on a new challenge, I feel both excitement and fear. The thought of having to adapt to a new environment often made my fear outweigh my excitement, causing me to hesitate before stepping out of my comfort zone. However, I soon realized that if I did not take the initiative, nothing would happen on its own, which pushed me to start pursuing things I had once vaguely wanted to try. Through this process, I came to truly understand the saying, “Well begun is half done.” What once seemed daunting and overwhelming before I started turned out to be much more manageable once I took the first step.



## Kim Si-yeon

For me, venturing into something new is confronting fear, anxiety and uncertainty within. Initially, I get overwhelmed by the unfamiliarity of the environment and the unease it engenders. However, as I bravely take each step, I eventually get enveloped by a sense of accomplishment from breaking through my limitations and overcoming my trepidation. This exhilaration makes me enjoy challenges. Having learned the beauty of challenges and the growth inherent in them, I no longer seek only the comfort when making choices in life.



## Kwon Yu-jin

Writing an article as a staff reporter for The Argus was very difficult. To select a topic that I wanted to convey to readers, I had to research various technologies and IT-related news and understand the current trends in technology. In the process of writing, there were many shortcomings such as the logic of the article and supplementary explanations. However, by giving and receiving feedback on each other's articles and sharing ideas, I felt that the articles were getting better. Also, I realized how to make the article interesting and easy to read from the readers' perspective.





## Jang Ye-rin

Joining The Argus as a new staff reporter was a completely new experience for me, as I had never participated in a magazine before. At first, I felt uncertain about my abilities, from writing in a journalistic style to conducting interviews. However, I gradually became more confident in my skills. Each piece of writing I worked on pushed me to think critically and think out of the box. Although I still have a long way to go, I look forward to learning even more as a writer and as a reporter.



## Kim Yi-eun

Starting something new is always a bit daunting, but I think there is also an unexpected sense of joy and accomplishment. When I got my first part-time job, or when I first started working at The Argus, and so on. At first, everything was awkward and challenging, but as I learned new things and got used to it, I felt a sense of fulfillment in being able to treat my parents with my earnings or to publish articles with my name on them. There will be a lot of new and challenging things to come, but rather than being intimidated, I will try to take it one step at a time and keep growing.



## Kim Su-yeon

I used to put so much pressure on myself to have perfect beginnings. I believed a flawless start was crucial, fearing that any mistake would sabotage the whole project. This belief made even small beginnings feel overwhelming, and I often procrastinate rather than risk an imperfect start. Through many trials and errors, I now understand how important it is to just start, however imperfectly, and progress gradually.

### Special Thanks to

Research Fellow Chang Ji-yeun, Attorney Seo Jeong-bin, Prof. Jeon Hank-seon, Prof. Son In-hyuk, Prof. Yoo Hoi-jun and Director Kim Hyung-joon



# The Argus

## 115기 수습기자 모집

### 지원 내용

- ▶ **자격:** 최소 3학기 이상 활동 가능한 양 캠퍼스 재학생
- ▶ **방법:** HUFS 공지사항에서 지원서 다운로드 및 작성 후  
아거스 공식 이메일(hufsargus@gmail.com) 로 발송

### 전형 일정

- ▶ **원서 접수**  
2025년 3월 4일 (화)~3월 16일 (일) 23:59
- ▶ **서류 합격**  
3월 18일 (화) 개별 문자 통지
- ▶ **필기 면접**  
2025년 3월 20일 (목), 21일 (금)
- ▶ **최종 합격**  
2025년 3월 23일 (일) 개별 문자 통지

### 문의처

- 편집장 박세은 / 010-8205-6835
- 아거스 공식 이메일 / hufsargus@gmail.com
- 아거스 공식 인스타그램 / @hufsargus

### 활동 혜택

1. 영작 능력 및 논리력 향상
2. 외대 언론 장학금 지급
3. 매달 원고료, 기자수당 지급
4. 직접 발로 뛰는 취재 활동
5. 학교 및 사회 명사 인터뷰 경험
6. 70년 넘게 이어온 The Argus 동문 간 네트워크:  
다양한 직업군의 선배님들  
과의 연결 고리