

Studio Now



In December, I am focusing on producing the commissioned work.

The explanation of my works

The work is in progress.

For detailed image, go to webpage on the bottom of next page.

Kim's Essay

Debate

Few weeks ago, I got to join as an art category panel for a debate hosted by the Foundation for Arts and Culture. There, traditional musician was the presenter and theater actors, actors from municipal theater companies, craftsmen, video production media producers, and indie band representatives join in as panels. The debate was held under the theme of Artist's Self-Sustainability, and the presenter gave an example of his or her job and presented the lives of artists living modern lives with irregular income.

The following is the example the presenter gave.

"There's two traditional musicians – A and B. They both graduated college and graduate school and were each living their lives as artists. Growing up being called a genius from an early age, A swept big awards in various competitions and graduated from a prestigious university with good grades. She even earned a doctorate degree from graduate school to become a professor, but her career had limited her in performing on good stages as well as becoming a professor. Currently, she earns income from private tutoring and is engaged in creative activities. Meanwhile, B lacks talent and ability compared to A, but has good insight into performance planning, so she continues her creative activities with income from conducting government-sponsored support projects by utilizing her ability to carry out various projects related to performances.

The presenter presents her agenda. "Those who are in the fields of which the audiences are in, their lives would be similar to those of A and B mentioned above. These two lives, seeming fine on a short term base, would not be able to last long term. So how would we artists develop sustainability?"

Each panel was explaining the situation of their own field in which they were associated with to express their arguments and as I was listening, I was thinking of the lives of artists of the field I am associated with. With everyone having said something, it had become my turn to speak, so I did.

"I've thought about the difference between artists and ordinary office workers in all fields, including visual arts. I think the fundamental difference lies in 'self-realization'. Even though office workers had the opportunity to go after themselves, I think they get fixed income in return by giving it up and choosing to work in an office. On the other hand, we chose self-realization because we wanted to. And although not everyone is in the same situation, I think they have accepted the unstable future that follows by choosing self-realization. I think it is a selfish idea to expand economic support toward the government just because the current creative environment of domestic artists is not stable. Rather, I think getting a spacial or environmental support where the artists can spread their creations from the government instead of economic support for is more realistic, and a platform to promote their creations and talents in each field should be established, so that artists can grow on their own."

Among the panels there, aside for myself and craftsmen, each field must collaborate to complete the creation, so for those who cannot generate income individually, the word 'self-sustainability' seemed to feel like aa alien word. The actors in the play said that it takes a month and a half to complete a performance. Moreover, he said he had little income while practicing and preparing, and even if the actual performance was held, there were few audiences, so it was difficult to expect a satisfactory income for actors. Despite this situation, the reason why they lead the performance is because of their "desire for self-realization." After listening to their stories and comparing them with my own, it seemed that the field of visual art was in a good situation. Visual artists generally seemed relatively easier to grow by themselves, considering these artists doing many projects alone, being free of time and space, and having more exhibition spaces compared to performance venues. I attended the forum to help with government policy, but it was a time when I was more grateful for what I was doing.

Suddenly I am reminded of a quote from a foreign artist whom I saw in a TV documentary when I was young. He was doing an interview in the middle of his work on a construction site and he said, "I am grateful to work on the day and create what I want at night. I think it is natural to work for my dream."