

Studio Now



I plan to work on the 'Forgetting' series through February to April for May.

The explanation of my works



Forgetting – City Life 55, 2022

This is a piece to question whether the choices we make when we purchase something is free will by showing the display photographed at a mall in 2018, Beijing – a display to which gives visual stimulation like the chocolate wrapper resembling sweetness and the urge of spending money sprung through the brand image engraved within the minds of people by many advertising companies.

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

Kim's Essay

Thoughts on Consciousness - Belief - Free Will

Scenario A. I usually wake up at around 8 o'clock in the morning. I would wake up, wash my face, eat breakfast, and turn on the computer at my studio. Then, I would start the note app and list the things to do in order of importance. After that, I would drink a cup of tea and start drawing. For lunch, I usually eat by myself but when I do have an appointment outside, I would dine out and come back to the studio to continue my work. I usually work till 6 or 7 in the evening. If I do not have any other plans, I also dine by myself at the studio for dinner and would work till 11 at night. Usually at around midnight, I would wash up and go to sleep. This, unless I have something special going on, is my daily life.

Scenario B. There was a mind-blowing event at Saigon, Vietnam in 1963. Ngô Đình Diệm (1901 – 1963), a Catholic, starting suppressing Buddhism. As the suppression got worse, Vietnamese monks at the time asked for aid of Thích Quảng Đức (1897-1963), a renown monk at the time. After thinking about it for a while, he wrote his last will to send to Ngô Đình Diệm, left the note to his apprentices saying that 'if his body falls to the front, they have failed, so flee to another country, but if his body falls towards the back, they would win the battle', and with the help of another monk, he burned himself after pouring oil all over his body. He did what is called 'self immolation' in Buddhism. At the time, the area was filled chaos with screaming and crying everywhere while the crowd watched his body burn, he endured the pain he brought upon himself through free will and faced death while holding the crossed-leg position to not fall to the front.

Some say that in choices and actions we make and take within a scenario like 'A', there are no free will. 'Daily life' is a series of functional action created with the repeated habitual choices within the information remembered by the brain, so thus there are no need for the free will to express. On the other hand, these people argue that only under special condition such as 'B', does the free will express itself. Because the extreme matter of "self immolation" is a memory and information that has never been experienced before, free will is expressed to find a solution different from the existing method and solves the situation. I agree with this argument. We do not think over each and every choices of our daily life when in situations that occur repeatedly every day, we choose one of the already familiar choices, like a conditional response. Also, I think the consciousness system of belief is closely correlated with free will. I think of belief as "reinforced consciousness system" for specific information to protect oneself from an outside force based on previously experienced information. So when the free will is about to express, belief becomes the center of condition when making the choice. The reason why I'm curious about these things probably stems from the desire to know what meaning and why I and others mean as beings and why I live by analyzing the consciousness that each city creates in their daily lives, much like the themes behind the Forgetting series.