

## Studio Now



Currently in the studio, work on cognition is in process.

## About Forgetting – City Life Series



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In Korean society, there is a tendency amongst teenagers where they fit their thoughts into their friends' choices instead of making their own as they are exposed to so many commercials. If a brand becomes popular, most every teenager would prefer that brand.

I remember this book by a broadcaster that produced a documentary on capitalism talking about this. It's a phenomenon that comes from a mob mentality that's afraid of social exclusion.

Since we are human, we are afraid of being excluded in relationships and for those relationship, sacrifice our own taste and be oblivious about it. This phenomenon, which makes us forget what we are going to lose by doing this for relationships, is particularly noticeable in the purchase of clothing because we know so well that no matter what clothing we wear, its appearance becomes our value.

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



## Kim's Essay

### Anxiety of Life and Death (1)

When I was six, my father died in a car accident. The conflict I had with my older brother bullying me made me think of family as an unpleasant restriction. 'Why do I have to live like this being born in such family?' 'Why did dad have to pass away so early that my older brother bully me all the time?' 'Does my family even love one another? If this is what family looks like, I don't want to live in it.' Thinking back at it, these questions were the most important matters when I was little.

1997. In the wake of the IMF crisis that came with the national bankruptcy crisis, I gave up going to college, worked in society, and went to college late after 7 years. Entering college, I was a freshman but also the oldest student in my department. I only knew 'Ukil', who I got to know in 1998, but he had already been to the military and was a senior.

7 years. I felt as if I was too behind.

'I am going to try harder since I am late and make my dreams come true!'

In the morning, I took teaching classes, in the daytime, major courses and in the evening I was double majoring in English. When I had become a senior, I was 29. Since I was not as young as others, I was concentrating on my work, vowing to take three steps when others take one to myself, when I heard the news. "Ukil's dead!" I was stunned. I had just heard about him getting happily married and now he is dead!

"Why? How?" I asked and I hear back the story of him going on a fishing trip with his family and as he was trying to dock the boat, the rope got undone, and he jumped in the water to catch the rope only to get stabbed by a metal object in the stomach.

At the funeral, there were people who went to college with him. It was good to see them, but when I spoke in honor of my dead friend, my heart soon became heavy, and I looked back on myself. 'When am I going to die?' 'Why am I running towards a dream? What's the point of running toward my dream?' I think back to 2008 when I was thinking about the anxiety of life and death stopping my steps toward my dream.



A source of the Forgetting series