

FIT CET FDGA SUMMER RESEARCH 2018-2019

Kyunghee Pyun (History of Art)

Date of submission: August 6, 2018

American Craft and Its Impact on Material Culture in East Asia

Kyunghee Pyun, Fashion Institute of Technology

Travel Itinerary

July 2-3-4: Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

July 4-5-6: Bunkyo University, Kyoto, Japan

July 7-8-9-10: Hong-ik University Library

July 11-13: Seoul National University, School of Fine Arts; Art Museum

July 16-18: Seoul National University Museum

July 19-23: National Museum of Korea, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art

July 24-25: Soongsil University, Museum

July 26-31: Ewha Womens University

August 1-5: Meeting scholars in Busan

During five weeks in July-August, I visited archives and examined records of American art exhibitions, American art journals and books, visits of American artists to Japan/Korea, and exchanges of Asian artists to the United States (and vice versa) from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Due to the severe weather condition in Kyoto and then in Seoul, some collections were not open to public. It was raining much in Kyoto while it was unusually hot in Seoul for most of July. With some limitations, I was still able to visit libraries and museums in Seoul. American Center Korea required more paperwork for visitors so that I could not see records there.

The libraries and research centers I selected are seminal places where Korean and Japanese artists were exposed to American craft designers and their works. While these centers were perceived to spread the US-centered propaganda, and were thus attacked in anti-American demonstrations, they remained important places for artists to get information. During my interviews with artists and scholars in Japan and Korea, I learned how important the American magazines and art books were in the minds of young art students in the post-Korean War era. A careful examination of American art books and journals at these centers and influential art college libraries in Korea and Japan has enabled me to rediscover how and why younger craft designers were immersed in American-style arts and crafts theories.