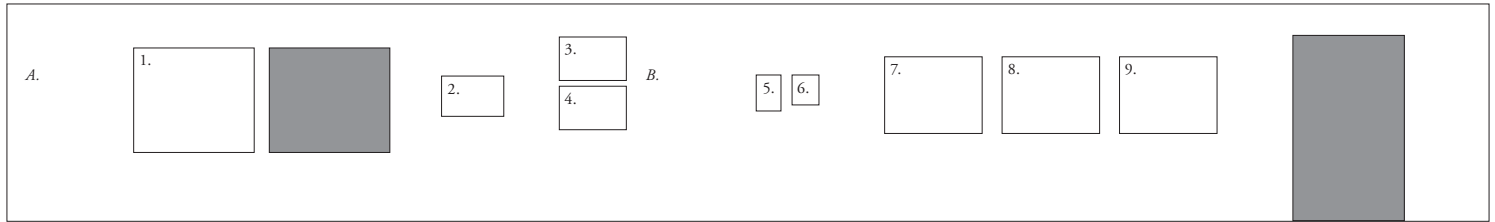


A.

The clouds and people drawn on the walls and ceiling of this cathedral, they are beyond the understanding of a common man's wisdom or mind, and are indescribable with any language or letters. When I tried to see the people in the picture with my eyes, a splendid light flashed like lightning and blinded my eyes. It was like the people in the picture were seeing right through me, which made me feel unpleasant. When I tried to hear them with my ears, they all looked down or up, back or sideways, as if they anticipated to whisper into my ears. It felt like they were reading my hidden intentions, which made me feel ashamed. When I tried to talk with my mouth, they broke their deep silence with a sudden cry of thunder and lightning.

– Bak Jiwon, *The Jehol Diary*, 1780.



1. Unknown, *Man Sleeping on a Bamboo Couch*, Yuan-Ming dynasty. Album leaf, ink and color on silk, 26×29.2 cm. Collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image Source: Art Resource, NY.

2. 'Small Museum of Art' (Image of a mountain spirit shrine, found on the Internet)  
 3. Visitors seeing *The 2nd Joseon Fine Arts Exhibition*, 1923. Seoul History Museum.  
 4. Yanagi Muneyoshi at *The Korean Folk Art Exhibition*, 1921.

5. Beom Kim, *White Porcelain Jar with Spinosaurus Design in Cobalt Blue Underglaze*, 2004. Ballpoint pen and transparent lacquer on paper clay, 39×28×28 cm. Collection of Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.  
 6. Beom Kim, *Untitled*, 1991. Ink on paper, 23×30 cm.

7. Statue of Kim Hong-do in MMCA Gwacheon, 2018. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong)  
 8. Exhibition of modern Korean art from the MMCA collection, held at MMCA Gwacheon, 2018. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong) Center: Cho Byungduk, *Wooden Box*, 1937. Oil on canvas, 58.5×48.5 cm. Collection of MMCA.  
 9. Construction of MMCA Gwacheon, 1985. MMCA Archive.

B.

Students dressed in traditional Korean costumes with their hair braided “look up” to the paintings framed and displayed on the wall as if it were a 19th-century European salon. The Japanese art historian Yanagi Muneyoshi “praises up” as folk art the everyday objects of the Joseon people, and displays them as works of art. While the colonized people admire the imperial culture, the intellectuals of the imperial countries glorify the culture of the colonized countries.

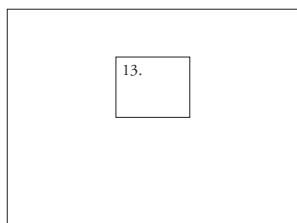
“The average Westerner was wont to regard Japan as barbarous while she indulged in the gentle arts of peace: he calls her civilized since she began to commit wholesale slaughter on Manchurian battlefields.”

– Okakura Tenshin,  
*The Book of Tea*, Duffield & Company, 1906.

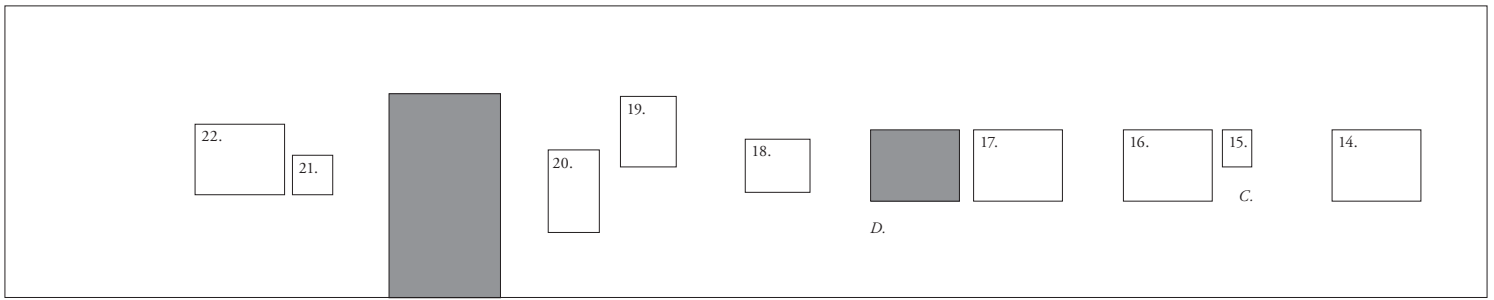


10. *Sanjedang* in Jungmug-ri, Bibong-myeon, Cheongyang-gun, Chungcheongnam-do, 2018. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong) When he was still a boy, Lee Ungno ran away from home to become a painter and stayed at his sister's place in Cheongyang. The townspeople paid him a daily wage of 1 won to make a painting of the mountain spirits. Lee was able to come to Seoul with this money. This took place between 1922 and 1924.  
 11. Lee Ungno, *People*, 1982. Ink on hanji, folding screen, 185×522 cm. Collection of Lee Ungno Museum, Daejeon. (Photo: Hong Cheolki)

12. Heungguk-sa Temple, Goyang, 2018. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong) Dangling onto a vine, the man snaps for the honey drops that fall from the beehive. The white rat and black rat gnawing the vine are said to symbolize day and night.



13. The fences in Soswaewon, Damyang, 2018. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong)



21. *Water Mark*, the concrete sculpture seen on the right, refers to Bahc Yiso's *Untitled*, seen in the photograph on the left.
22. View of MMCA Gwacheon during the exhibition *Bahc Yiso: Memos and Memories*, 2018.  
Center: Bahc Yiso, *Untitled*, 1994. Concrete, iron bars, wire mesh, 85×377×142 cm. Private collection, reproduction by Jo Heajun and Han Sanghyeok, 2018.

18. Jeon Seontaek, *Invitation*, 1979. Oil on canvas, 61×73 cm. Collection of MMCA. When painting this picture, the artist imagined of inviting his family and friends in North Korea and offering them his cooking.
19. Chung Seoyoung, *Pagoda*, 2009. Urethane, 50×50×70 cm.
20. Chung Seoyoung, *Clay Tower*, 2013. Pigment print, pencil, 29.7×21 cm.

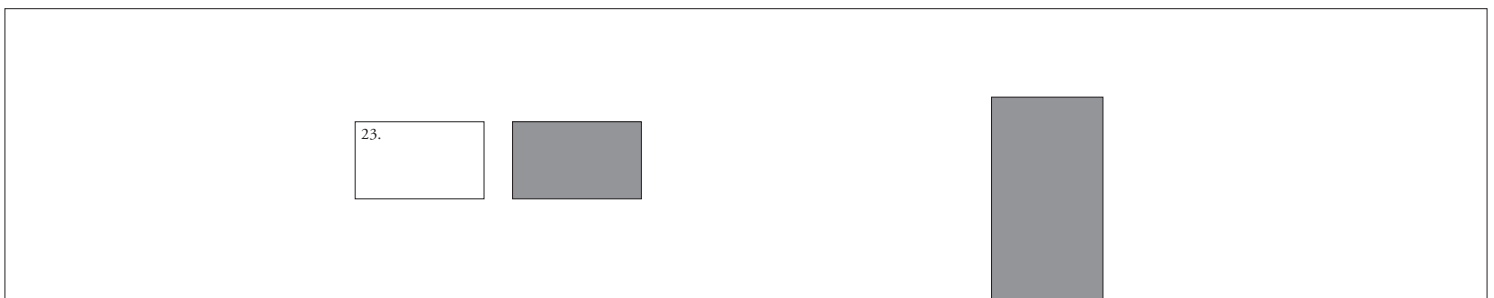
14. Park Inkyung, *Road*, 1985. Ink on hanji, 89×70 cm. Collection of Seoul Museum of Art. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong)
15. Lee Ungno being released from prison.
16. Lee Ungno, *Oegeumgang*, 1945. Ink and color on hanji, folding screen, 126×420 cm. Collection of Lee Ungno Museum, Daejeon. (Photo: Park Chan-kyong)
17. Seungwoo Back, *KP-#012*, 2011. Digital print, 79×106 cm. This photo is from a series that documents the Defense Security Command building which used to here before MMCA Seoul was built.

C.

In 1967, Lee Ungno received an invitation from the Korean Legation in France, which stated that the government “would like to invite those who contributed to and promoted abroad the national culture of Korea.” Upon his arrival, Lee was arrested for espionage. The Central Intelligence Agency announced that “194 people, including Yun Isang and Lee Ungno in the arts, Yim Seokjin in the academia, were prosecuted for communist maneuvering in the South.” Lee was imprisoned for 2 and a half years. Nobody was ruled guilty in the last instance.

D.

The Armed Forces' Defense Security Command (DSC) was founded in 1977, by integrating the counterintelligence corps of the air force and the navy with the security command of the army. DSC lead a series of military mutinies including the Coup d'état of December 12, 1979, and the extension of emergency martial law in May 17, 1980. After Private Yun Seok-yang exposed DSC's illegal civilian inspections in 1990, DSC was retitled in Korean, from *boan saryeongbu* to *gimu saryeongbu*, in the following year. The DSC offices were in Sogyek-dong, Seoul, from 1971, until it relocated to Gwacheon in 2008. The Sogyek-dong site of DSC now houses MMCA Seoul. (<https://ko.wikipedia.org/wiki/국군기무사>)



23. *Small Museum of Art*, 15 min 50 sec, 2019  
4 workers died in a fire during the construction of MMCA Seoul. A *gut* ritual to console the deceased was led by shaman Kim Geumhwa.