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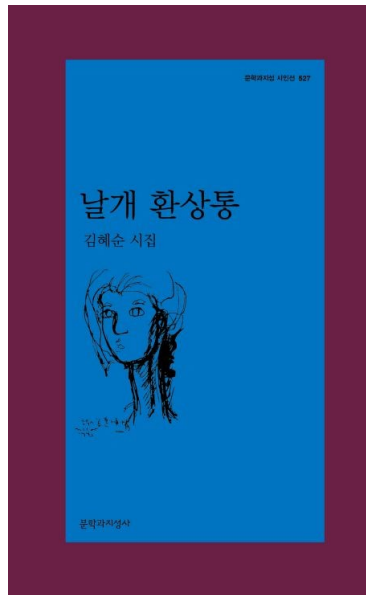
Poetry Collections: The Trend of the Era and the Compass of the Heart

Written by Im In-Tack (Literary reporter at *Hankyoreh*)

The rise of Korean poetry and its global takeoff

There have been a number of “unusual” scenes in Korean literature in recent years. If I told you that Korean poetry is at the center of it, would international readers believe me? The proportion of readers in their 20s and 30s buying poetry books is increasing. The share of teenagers is also increasing, not to mention the number of poetry books being published. It is no longer strange or unfamiliar to see people transcribing poems. There are even bookstores in Korea that sell only poetry books. It’s a curious thing. Haven’t we all moved on to YouTube, TikTok, and Netflix? The thing that’s being “unlocked” should be smartphones, not poetry books, isn’t it?

The year 2024 is poised to be a monumental year in Korean literary history. It is 100 years since the publication of Chu Yo-Han' first poetry collection *Beautiful Dawn*, which contains the first free verse *Fireworks*, and 99 years since the publication of Kim So-Wol's first poetry collection *Azaleas*, which laid the foundation for popular poetry collections in the history of modern literature. It's been 101 years since Kim Uk's *Song of a Jellyfish*, the first creative poetry collection in Korea, was released. Korean poetry's appreciation, legacy, and literary achievements have reached unprecedented heights this year. In March of this year, poet Kim Hye-Soon won the National Book Critics Circle Award with her poetry collection *Phantom Pain Wings* (Moonji Publishing), which was published in translation in the US in May 2023. It was the first by a Korean author. While poetry is regarded as a field that is "impossible to be translated," it affirms that Korean poetry, both deeply personal and universal, is resonating across the world. "It reflects, with remarkable originality and boldness, the aftermath of war and dictatorship, the oppression of a patriarchal society, the pain of life, such as the death of a father, and the rituals of overcoming it, into an alternative imaginary world."



Phantom Pain Wings

In the second half of the year, we have Han Kang, without a doubt. She was the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. You might ask, isn't Han Kang a novelist? According to the Swedish Academy's evaluation, doesn't her "poetic style" set her apart? Han Kang originally started her creative work as a poet. She began in 1993. Not many readers in Korea knew this until she won the Nobel Prize. The Nobel Prize Committee for Literature stated the reason for her selection was "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life." True, but there's a problem. This assessment was made without actually seeing Han's poems and poetry collections.

Han Kang's poetry collection *I Put the Evening in the Drawer* (Moonji Publishing), published in Korea in 2013, will make its Western debut next March. It is a French translation (translated

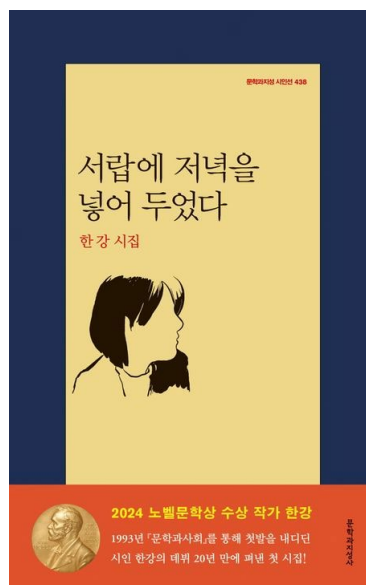
by Choi Mi-Kyung). The French publishing house Grasset, which had been holding onto the translation manuscript for almost two years, delaying the final contract and publication, contacted the translator the same day the news of the Nobel Prize broke, saying they would “accelerate the publication of the collection” and immediately began editing. Han Kang, a poet and novelist, writes prose with carefully honed “poetic language,” rather than “poetic prose,” and develops the entire work in “poetic narrative.” The “state of poetry” that Han describes herself is much more specific.

“I first go into a scene in the novel, feel it, and put it into a sentence. And then, throughout the novel, I try to capture as much of it as I can, all the way to the end, to get a little bit more of the vividness of the moment. I read a lot of poetry when I’m about to finish the work, because that’s what poetry does. It gets you close to the rawness of the moment. I try to reach the state of poetry, so that I can go through the whole novel with a sense of vividness, and then pause, and then go through it again - keeping the current flowing.”

- Interview with bimonthly literary magazine *Axt*, 2022

Readers might miss out on a lot when they skip over the italicized subtext that Han frequently uses in her novels. That’s because the italicized lines contain a lot of “poetic language.” Han,

who told the Swedish Academy that she “grew up with Korean literature,” was the “child” who said she wanted to be a poet at the age of 9. She recalls that she read 2 poetry collections every week after joining a poetry club as a university student in 1989. In other words, she was raised in a world of poetry. In particular, the 1980s, during which she completed middle and high school and entered college, is known as the “era of poetry” in Korea. Here’s the background.



I Put the Evening in the Drawer

The legacy of the 1980s’ “era of poetry” in Korean literary history

The first-ever poetry collection series by poets in Korea began in 1974. This was when Korea’s GDP per capita was only \$563. It was ranked 30th in the world, with Indonesia (26th) and Nigeria (29th) ahead of it. Considering such hard times in the country, most of the previous poetry collections were self-published by

the poets themselves. They would print around 500 copies. Then, half a century ago, the publishing house Minumsa launched the *Poet of the Day* series, and the first volume was Kim Su-Young's (1921-1968) poetry collection, *The Great Root*. It's a compilation of some of the poet's poems collected in a single volume. Unlike the usual poetry collection, a new series of collections exclusively devoted to new poems was launched the following year. *Changbi Sisun* from Changbi Publishers, the same publishing house that published Han Kang's full-length novels, *The Vegetarian* and *Human Acts*. The first volume was *Farmers' Dance* by poet Shin Kyung-Rim (1936-2024). In 1975, *Farmers' Dance* became the No. 1 nonfiction bestseller the month after its publication and the No. 4 bestseller of the year. It sold 10,000 copies, along with Kim Su-Young's *The Great Root*, by the following year. At that time, the press commented, "It's the biggest sales since Seo Jeong-Ju's poetry collection or Kim So-Wol's poetry collection. This phenomenon is a miracle compared to the old days when poets used to publish their poetry books voluntarily through *gye* (a form of gathering and saving money by a number of people, usually between close friends)" (*Kyunghyang Shinmun*, December 2, 1976). This has broken the old formula where the author would publish a poetry collection with their own money and consider it a success if it sold 4,000 to 5,000 copies. And, with the release of the *Poetry Collection by Moonji Publishing* in 1978, which continues to sell over 200,000 copies a year even in the 2020s, the "era of poetry" in the 1980s reached full bloom.



The Great Root and Farmers' Dance

The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Minumsa's *Poet of the Day* series, the 500th issue of *Changbi Sisun*, and the 600th issue of *Poetry Collection by Moonji Publishing*. It is difficult to find other examples outside of Korea where publishers have managed to keep their distinctive “genes” in publishing poetry collections with such consistency. There are also a number of new poetry collection series that have been launched in the 2020s. Just like the poetry collections released by the *Chungrokpa* (靑鹿派; referring to Park Mok-Wol, Park Du-Jin, and Cho Ji-Hoon) in the 1940s, younger poets are coming together to publish poetry collections as well. I wonder if this is really something that can happen in a publishing market that has been described as going through “the worst period since the country’s foundation.”

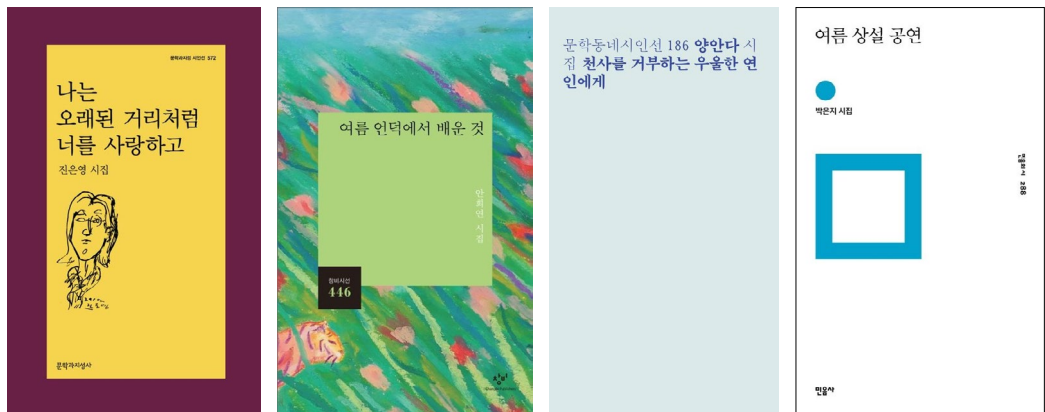
Generation Z and Millennials embrace poetry again

Even in France, the home of Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé, Authur Rimbaud, and Paul Valéry, poetry is said to be something that is “rarely read” anymore. It was January 2023 when the translated manuscript of Han Kang’s *I Put the Evening in the Drawer*, which had already gone through more than 45 printings in Korea before winning the Nobel Prize in Literature, was handed over to the publishing house Grasset. However, the publisher had told the translator that they “don’t do poetry collections very much,” leaving it uncertain whether it would be published.

This is why international publishers are often surprised to find themselves in the poetry section of large Korean bookstores. As of 2019, there were 3,069 poetry collections published in Korea. The number increased to 3,102 in 2020, 3,257 in 2021, and 3,361 in 2023. This means that the number of “poetry collections” out there has increased by more than 9.5%. The trend was reflected in the sales as well. According to Yes 24, a large online bookstore in Korea, the overall sales of poetry collections increased by 25.4% in 2021 compared to 2017. Most notable is the change in those in their 20s and 30s, who are smartphone and video generations that seemed to be uninterested in poetry. Over the six-year period from 2018 to 2023, the proportion of readers in their 20s who purchased poetry collections through Yes 24 has steadily increased from 7.5% to 8.2%, 11.7% to 13.2%, and 14% to 14.5%.

It is worth noting data from Kyobo Book Center, another large bookstore in Korea, which this year showed that people in their 20s accounted for 26.5% of all purchases of poetry collections, and people in their 30s accounted for 20.2%, the first and second largest age groups. This is a stark difference from the past trend, where poetry was perceived as the realm of the previous generations, who had experienced the “era of poetry” in the 1980s and 1990s.

It’s also worth recognizing the depth and format of poetry collections that the young generation is looking for. According to Yes 24, the most popular poetry collection purchased by people in their 20s in 2023 was *I Love You Like an Old Street* (Moonji Publishing) by philosopher-poet Jin Eun-Young. Other titles in the top 10 included Ahn Hee-Yeon’s *Summer Lessons on the Hill* (Changbi Publishers), Hwang In-Chan’s *Let’s Call This My Heart* (Munhakdongne), Yang Ahn-Da’s *Dear My Depressed Love Refusing Angels* (Munhakdongne), Park Eun-Ji’s *Permanent Summer Show* (Minumsa), Park Jun’s *I Spent Days Thinking of a Name for You* (Munhakdongne), and Yook Ho-Soo’s *No Eternity, No Boys, and No Angels* (Munhakdongne). Aside from the commonality of being young poets, the poems vary in style, sensitivity, and temperature.



*I Love You Like an Old Street; Summer Lessons on the Hill;
Dear My Depressed Love Refusing Angels; Permanent Summer Show*

The Seoul International Book Fair in 2023 and 2024 cannot be summarized without mentioning poetry. With 130,000 and 150,000 visitors on each of the 5 days of the event, it would have been hard to find a booth that wasn't crowded, but Moonji Publishing's booth in 2023 was a real eye-opener. There was nothing special about the event. It was just that the sheer presence of the poets whose names filled the *Poetry Collection by Moonji Publishing* —more than 500 volumes at that point— was enough to draw a crowd. The case of 2024 was made by the publisher Munhakdongne. The publishing house, which has published more than 200 volumes of its own poetry collections since 2011, attracted visitors with a small “poetry telephone” set up at one of its booths. Visitors would enter the red payphone booth, pick up the receiver, and a random poem would be read out. There were nearly 2,000 people in line to call. When the event was expanded to the general public the month after the book fair, 230,000 calls were made to hear a poem in the first 6

days. People said, “I waited with excitement to see what poems would be read,” adding, “I was having a hard time at work, and the poem heard on the line brought me comfort.”

The “unconventional era of poetry” - a new wave in Korean literature

It’s doubtful to say that these few market reactions have revived poetry, or that the age of poetry has returned. While the total number of poetry collection titles has increased, the number of copies per title has been plummeting. Even large publishers are now printing a maximum of 2,000 copies, down from 2,000 to 3,000, and 1,000 copies is not uncommon for other publishers. Also, the so-called “healing poems,” especially those appearing in dramas, movies, and celebrities’ Instagrams, sometimes determine the sales market for poetry collections. No matter how much poetry has been revitalized, it can’t compare to the 1980s and 1990s. Plus, there are tons of issues and mechanisms that captivate the public today, so it’s unlikely that the “era of poetry” will ever return. Still, the bizarre phenomena we are witnessing, especially the purchase of poetry collections by teenagers that increased by 1.2 times in the first half of this year compared to the previous year, cannot be more accurately described without calling it a “turnaround” in poetry. Though we may not see the “era of poetry,” we are at least in an “unconventional era of poetry” in Korea.

In the first half of this year, *Hankyoreh* published a feature on a large-scale survey of poets (“100 Years of Contemporary Korean Poetry: Asking Poets About Today,” *Hankyoreh*, September 3, 2024). It asked poets who have published poetry collections through *Changbi Sisun* and *Poetry Collection by Moonji Publishing* 31 questions about their favorite poetry collections and poets, their favorite novels and novelists, and the reasons behind their choices. In other words, it was a collective in-depth interview with 80 contemporary poets, seeking to explore not only their favorite poems and poets but also the role of poetry and poets, the relevance of poetry today, and the gap between poetry and readers. The response to the article was tremendous. Some readers wanted to know when the follow-up article would be published, while others wanted to know more about poets and poetry collections that were not on the poets’ top 10 favorite poetry collections and poets.

During the interview, *Hankyoreh* asked the poets, “Why is poetry necessary or unnecessary in this age?” They replied, “It is necessary because it is a country with its own language,” and “poetry is the most sensitive native language.” Poetry transcends the dichotomy of necessity and unnecessary by its very existence. In *Poetics*, Aristotle insightfully noted that “a historian tells what has happened, and a poet tells what is probable; therefore poetry is more philosophical and greater than historical narrative.” As our “most sensitive native language,” poetry captures our plight, the unknown sorrows, joys, and pains of the heart, and also what

the heart thinks is likely to happen.

Albert Camus once confessed after reading a poem by René Émile Char, the French poet credited with writing “the poetry of poetry.” “Before I knew you, I could do fine without poetry.” It doesn’t mean that he was really doing fine - it means that he didn’t fully realize what “doing fine” was before reading the poem. That’s why I’m glad to see the “unconventional era of poetry.”

SPECIAL PROJECT

[Award-winning Korean Books ②]

Korean Literature's Borderless Literary Appeal

Korean works nominated or winning international literary awards in 2024

Written by Kim Sheen (Publishing critic)

The flow, trend, and outlook of Korean literature

Until 2023, one of the major concerns in the Korean literary world, intellectual circles, and the publishing industry was whether Korean books, including literature, would continue to expand their presence in the global content market. And, this became a “certainty” in only a year. Han Kang’s winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature served as the catalyst. In the four years since 2020, the number of Korean authors winning international literary awards skyrocketed. Among the 45 awards won since 2003, 20 were from 2020 and onward. The following are some of the most prominent wins or nominations for international

literary awards in the past four years.

In 2020, Kim Young-Ha's *Diary of a Murderer* (Bokbok Seoga) won Deutscher Krimipreis – International, Cho Nam-Joo's *Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* (Minumsa) was nominated for the National Book Award for Translated Literature, Sohn Won-Pyung's *Almond* (Darjeeling Books) won the Japan Booksellers' Award for Translated Fiction, Kim Geum-Suk's *Grass* (Changbi Publishers) won the Harvey Award for Best International Work and was nominated for the Eisner Award for Best Writer, and Kim Yi-Deum's *Hysteria* (Moonji Publishing) won the National Translation Award and the Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize in the US. More came in 2021 – Yun Ko-Eun's *The Disaster Tourist* (Minumsa) won the CWA Dagger Awards organized by the Crime Writers' Association in the UK. On top of these, there were 17 cases in which Korean literary works won or were nominated for an international literary award in 2021 alone.



Grass; Hysteria; The Disaster Tourist



Moon Sherbet; Counterattack at Thirty; One Letter Dictionary

The year 2022 was when we could feel the heightened reputation of Korean literature from various angles. For example, Korean-American writer Lee Min-Jin's full-length novel *Pachinko* drew great popularity when it was adapted into a drama series on Apple TV+. This led to a soar in the original book's sales, making it a bestseller. In addition, two titles, *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung (Rabbit Hole) and *Love in the Big City* by Park Sang-Young (Changbi Publishers), were longlisted for the Booker Prize, and *Cursed Bunny* was shortlisted with other five titles. The winning of literary awards for children's picture books can also be seen as a great achievement for Korean literature. For example, Lee Suzy's picture book *Summer* (BIR Publishing) won the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Kim Geum-Suk's graphic novel *Grass* won the Muriel Comics Award in Czech, and Baek Hee-Na, who won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2020, won the Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award in 2022 for *Moon Sherbet* (Storybowl). Following *Almond*, Sohn Won-Pyung's full-length novel *Counterattack at Thirty* (EunHaeng NaMu) once again won

the Japan Booksellers' Award for Translated Fiction, and Kim So-Yeon's poetry collection *One Letter Dictionary* (Maumsanchaek) won the Japan Translation Award.

- * *K-Book Trends Vol. 37* – Go to the interview with writer Lee Suzy
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=580&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=Suzy
- * *K-Book Trends Vol. 26* – Go to the interview with writer Baek Hee-Na
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=550&page=4&code=interview&category=66
- * *K-Book Trends Vol. 22* – Go to the interview with writer Sohn Won-Pyung
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=621&page=4&code=interview&category=66

In the meantime, Han Kang has won a total of six international literary awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature (2024) and the Booker Prize (2016), two of the world's top three literary awards. She has also received literary awards in various European countries, including the Malaparte Prize in Italy in 2017, the San Clemente Literary Prize in Spain in 2018, the Prix Médicis in France in 2023, and the Prix Émile Guimet for Asian Literature in 2024. Following Han Kang, Kim Hye-Soon stands out the most, with a total of five international literary awards. Kim's literary awards are mainly from North America, such as the National Book Critics Circle Awards for Poetry this year, the Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize in the US, and the Griffin Poetry Prize International in Canada in 2019. Also, Kim Young-Ha has received a total of three international literary awards. He won the Japan Translation Award in 2018, the German Independent Publishers Literary Award, and the third prize in the international category

of the German Mystery Literary Award (Deutscher Krimipreis) in 2020.

Rapidly growing overseas sales of Korean authors' works

In addition to winning international literary awards, the sales of Korean authors' works around the world have also seen a significant shift. Last year, the Literature Translation Institute of Korea (LTI) tracked sales of 75% of the 658 Korean literary titles (37 language zones) published overseas from 2016 to 2021. The results showed that Cho Nam-Joo's *Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* was the title that sold the most in the international market for the past five years. It has sold more than 300,000 copies in 10 language zones. The biggest sales were in Japan, in which more than 200,000 copies were sold. Following was Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* (Changbi Publishers), which sold more than 160,000 copies in 13 language zones. Sohn Won-Pyung's *Almond* sold more than 90,000 copies in Japan alone, and Jeong You-Jeong's *The Good Son* (EunHaeng NaMu), published in 9 language zones, was particularly popular in Brazil, selling more than 20,000 copies. Also, Kim Young-Ha's *Diary of a Murderer* was identified to have sold more than 10,000 copies throughout the year since it was published in Germany in 2020.

The number of Korean literary works that recorded accumulated international sales of more than 5,000 copies as of 2021 was 34 in total. When the English edition of *Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* was

published in mid-April in 2020 in the US, local readers showed a highly positive response. At that time, the *New York Times* put the book under the spotlight, commenting, “The heroine of this Korean bestseller is extremely ordinary. That’s the point.” In addition, top media outlets such as the *New York Review of Books*, *El País* in Spain, *The Guardian* in the UK, *Le Figaro* in France, and *Time* in the US published book reviews and introductions, showing the high interest of Western readers in Korean literature and social trends.



Kim Jiyoung *Born 1982*; *The Vegetarian*; *The Good Son*

Global sales of Korean literature are expected to explode further with Han Kang’s winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature in October 2024. The prestige of the Nobel Prize in Literature has made it difficult for literary readers around the world to doubt or underestimate the depth of Korean literature. With the cultural pride and confidence of Korean writers, the overall demand for Korean literature is bound to increase. The impact of Han Kang’s

Nobel Prize in Literature will change the landscape of Korean literature in the future. It is clear from various statistics that global interest in Korean literature has been on the rise in recent years. The liking and curiosity about Korea started with K-pop, but it doesn't stop there. In addition to popular culture, such as Korean songs, dances, and dramas, the world's interest now extends deeper into Korean society and intellectualism.

Expanding the reach of Korean literature across diverse languages

For example, *Crying in H Mart* by Korean-American Michelle Zauner is a particularly compelling and thought-provoking story. The book, published in the US in 2021, is an autobiographical essay. Michelle Zauner is a second-generation Korean-American who couldn't understand her mother, who was different from other American mothers, and became more distant from her as she pursued a career as a musician. However, the year Michelle turns 25, her mother passes away from cancer. Afterward, she starts buying ingredients from a Korean grocery store and cooking for herself, reconnecting with her mom. The story ends with Michelle releasing an album dedicated to her mom and growing up to become a world-class musician. This is the coming-of-age story of Michele Jauner, the Grammy Award-nominated vocalist and guitarist of the indie pop band "Japanese Breakfast." It stayed on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 60

weeks, being selected as the book of the year in 2021 by the *New York Times*, *Time*, Amazon, and more, and endorsed by former US President Barack Obama. In response to the enthusiastic response from American readers, the book was translated and published in Korea in February 2022.



Korean editions of *Crying in H Mart* and *Beasts of a Little Land*

Crying in H Mart does not follow the usual pattern of a book being published abroad on the premise of being published in Korea. In this case, it can be considered “Korean literature produced in English.” In the case of literary achievements published by second or third generations of Koreans living abroad in various languages, it is unclear whether we should recognize them as Korean literature if we cannot feel Korean sentiments in them, but *Crying in H Mart* was obviously and naturally Korean literature. This is also true for Kim Joo-Hye’s full-length novel *Beasts of a Little Land*. Set during the Japanese

occupation of Korea, it tells an epic tale of independence fighters and one of the most dynamic periods in Korean history. Korean-American author Kim Joo-Hye won the Russian Tolstoy Literary Prize (Yasnaya Polyana Prize) in October 2024. The Tolstoy Literary Prize was established in 2003, the 175th anniversary of Tolstoy's birth, by the Leo Tolstoy Museum, and is currently considered the most prestigious literary award in Russia.

Kim Joo-Hye was born in Incheon, Korea, in 1987 and moved to Portland, Oregon, US with her family when she was 9 years old. She studied art history at Princeton University. She began her writing career in 2016 with the publication of her short story *Body Language* in the British literary magazine *Granta*, and has since published fiction, essays, and critiques in various media, including *The Independent*. Her short story *Biodome*, set in a futuristic Korea, is scheduled to be made into a TV series. As a bilingual person who left Korea at a young age but is proud of her native language and has always spoken Korean at home, she has also translated Choi In-Ho's short story *The Biggest House in the World* into English. Growing up listening to stories from her mother about her maternal grandfather, she naturally recognized Korean history as a part of her life, and was inspired to write a novel that would share Korean history with readers around the world while also suggesting how we should live meaningfully in the face of natural destruction, war, and hunger.

Beasts of a Little Land was first published in the US in 2021, after which it received critical acclaim, becoming an Amazon

“Book of the Month” upon its release and being selected as one of the “Best Books of 2021” by *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Real Simple*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *Portland Monthly*. It has also been featured as a recommended book in more than 40 English-language publications, including *The Times* and the *New York Times*. Although *Beasts of a Little Land* is an achievement of Anglo-American literature written in English by an author of American nationality, it is also an achievement of Korean literature set against the backdrop of Korea’s independence movement history by an author who identifies herself as a descendant of Korean independence fighters. This is a good example of how the category of Korean literature can be broadened to include works written in various languages.

Achievements of Korean literature in 2024

Below are some of the works that have won or been shortlisted for major international literary awards in 2024. First, Han Kang won the French Prix Émile Guimet de Littérature Asiatique for her novel *We Do Not Part* (Munhakdongne) earlier this year, prior to the Nobel Prize in Literature. Kim Hye-Soon became the first Korean to win the National Book Critics Circle Award in March 2024 for *Phantom Pain Wings*. The award is considered one of the most prestigious literary awards in the US, along with the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. It was the first Korean author to win the award since its inception in 1975, and

the first time a translated poetry collection has ever won. Kim Hye-Soon also won the Griffin Prize for International Poetry in 2019 for *Autobiography of Death* (Munhaksilhumsil). Kim's 13th poetry collection, *Phantom Pain Wings*, was published in 2019, in the 40th year of her writing career, by Moonji Publishing. *Phantom Pain Wings* was also named one of the "5 Best Poetry Books of the Year" by the *New York Times* late last year. Her poetry is considered to possess global universality. The *New York Times* commented of the collection that "it is read as a variety of horrors, including spiritual, bizarre, and futuristic situations."

Hwang Bo-Reum's novel *Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop* (Clay House) won the Japan Booksellers' Award. Hwang Sok-Yong's novel *Mater 2-10* (Changbi Publishers) was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, and Lim Sung-Soon's novel *Consultant* (EunHaeng NaMu) was shortlisted for the CWA Dagger Award in the UK. Kim Soom's novel *Drifting Land* (EunHaeng NaMu) was longlisted for the Prix Émile Guimet de Littérature Asiatique in France, and Ma Young-Sin's comics *Les Daronnes* (Humanist) was shortlisted for the Prix Émile Guimet de Littérature Asiatique and nominated for the Official Competition of the Angoulême International Comics Festival in France. The Prix Émile Guimet de Littérature Asiatique is an award presented by the Guimet Museum (Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale) in Paris, France. Established in 2017 to promote Asian literature in France, the award is given annually to contemporary Asian literature translated and published in French.



Phantom Pain Wings; Mater 2-10; Drifting Land; Les Daronnes

Korean literature at the heart of world literature

The world literary scene has recently been focusing on young Korean writers in their 30s to 50s. Bora Chung is one such writer. In 2022, she was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize for her horror collection *Cursed Bunny*, one of the biggest hits in the Korean publishing market. Her uniquely imaginative stories about the cruelty of patriarchy using surrealistic elements such as monsters and ghosts have captivated readers around the world and the book is currently one of the most actively exported. Another author, Park Sang-Young, who was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for his novel *Love in the Big City*, has also succeeded in capturing the attention of readers around the world in recent years. *Love in the Big City*, published in 2019, is the author's second short story collection of four interconnected short- to medium-length novels, including *A Piece of Rockfish*, *the Taste of Universe*, and was the winner of the Munhakdongne Young Author Award. It describes the story of youthful love and breakup in a lighthearted yet humorous tone. It is characteristic

of Park Sang-Young's novels that they reflect on the inner worlds of modern people through a light but profound, penetrating mood. And it's not just Korean readers responding to this. Even before the book was published, a copyright contract was signed with Tilted Axis Press in the UK. Though copyright deals with overseas publishers have become increasingly common, it is unusual to see a contract signed even before publication in Korea. The deal was reportedly arranged by Deborah Smith, who translated Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*; it symbolizes that the level of interest and understanding of Korean authors and literature in the global publishing world has reached a much higher level than we had expected.

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 47* – Go to the interview of writer Bora Chung

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1006&code=interview&category=66

* *K-Book Trends Vol. 48* – Go to the interview of writer Park Sang-Young

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Cursed Bunny; Love in the Big City

Han Kang's Nobel Prize in Literature reflects the quality of Korean literature as a whole. Many Korean authors have sufficient literary achievement and artistic quality to be nominated for the Nobel Prize. Han Kang's win is a testament to the quality of Korean literature. Han's winning the Nobel Prize will raise the stature of many other Korean writers. This will not only be a matter of quantitative growth but will also foster a sense that Korean literature is now at the center and mainstream of world literature. There is now a self-consciousness among Korean writers that Korean literature is no longer on the fringes, which is bound to be reflected in their works. The works produced by our writers will embody a literary charm that knows no borders, which will mesmerize literary readers around the world.

EXPORT CASE

Bringing Korean Voices to French Readers

Written by Juliette Picquier (Éditions Picquier)

Korean literature and Editions Picquier have a long story. We began publishing books from Asia nearly 40 years ago: Korea and its literature, virtually unknown in France at the time, have fascinated us from our earliest days. The first works we published - Kim Won Il's *Mr Lee's Travel*, KIM Song Dong's *Mandala*, Yun Hung Kil's *The Mother* - almost went unnoticed; it was challenging to bring readers into contact with a literature that was far removed from the habits and preoccupations of French readers. It was a literature that gave pride of place to cultural traditions, to the earth, to history. We thus decided to publish anthologies of short stories and essays to give French readers some reference points. This had a pedagogical purpose, establishing a foothold in Korean literature and presenting a

more organized history to readers. More than 30 years ago, what was being published in France was a literature whose history we knew very little about, with few points of reference, known mainly through novels featuring a reality dominated by painful events such as the war or political and social problems which marked Korean literature for many years.



The homepage of Editions Picquier
(featuring the promotion of *Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop* by Hwang Bo-reum)

Then, one day, Kim Young-ha appeared in our catalog. In 1996, we published *I Have the Right to Destroy Myself* (Bokbokseoga), which was met with critical acclaim. Kim Young-ha's novel arrived like a shooting star: it was a first novel by a talented and promising young writer; a scabrous subject, a provocative tone, with wry humor, and an ironic lightness that heralded a style of writing that was very different from the books we were being offered from Korea at the time. I remember the introduction to readers was not easy at first- we had to change the cover three

times before we could claim our first Korean success!

Then came other major authors to whom we have since become very attached, such as Hwang Sok-yong and Gong Ji-young. They are all writers to whom we remain faithful to this day, because our ambition as a publisher - the way we envision publishing - is to commit to what we call our 'oath of loyalty' to authors. We commit to publishing several books by the same author over time, as it is evidently true that one cannot be known, recognized, or truly appreciated as a writer without a coherent body of published work in France as well as in Korea.



Black Flower; Empire of Lights; Diary of a Murderer (covers of the French ver.)

This is how our 'oath of loyalty' with Kim Young-ha started; his first title was followed by *Black Flower* (Bokbokseoga), then *Empire of Lights* (Bokbokseoga), *Diary of a Murderer* (Bokbokseoga), and many others. Each published title is like a building block, each success is like a groundswell that breathes

new life into previously published titles; I believe a catalog is truly built on this virtuous cycle. It was a particular pleasure for us to meet with Hwang Sok-yong in person on several occasions and to publish his works. We welcomed him to France and have held great admiration and friendship ever since. Gong Ji-young's novels also greatly touched the hearts of French readers; her social commitment resonated strongly in France.

Have French readers changed? I think they have. Readers of books from Asia are now more attentive and much more curious. Much to our delight, Korea has become a major cultural player through the export of its culture. Korean culture has made its mark in film - Bong Joon-ho's "Parasite", TV series like "Squid Game" - and music with hugely successful global K-Pop artists. I think we are seeing a similar phenomenon with K-Lit.

I am not just talking about the Nobel Prize, which has just been awarded to Han Kang, but about books of all genres which are now easily available in bookshops all over the country, including children's books, illustrated books, thrillers, fantasy and, more recently, popular healing books.

In the face of a literature that is sometimes excessively globalized - Anglo-Saxon literature largely dominates the market for translated literature - Korean literature brings its own singularity, its own voices. A diversity that we can finally recognize and appreciate in France. For our part, we have achieved major successes with books that are all very different: for example, *Cats' School* (Munhakdongne) by Kim Jin-kyeong and Kim Jae-

hong, which we have been reprinting constantly since 2006; literary books such as *Princess Bari* (Changbi) by Hwang Sok-yong, *Empire of Lights* by Kim Young-ha; thriller novels such as *The Good Son* (EunHaeng NaMu) by Jeong You-Jeong; another one which I particularly like is Gong Ji-young's *Our Happy Time* (Hainaim Publishing), who now has a loyal readership. We are proud to welcome different Korean voices to our catalogue, as we have done for Japan and China, and we pay close attention to showcasing a culture and a country in all its diversity.



Cats' School; Princess Bari; The Good Son; Our Happy Time (covers of the French ver.)

I have noticed a real shift in recent years, to the extent that the global excitement for Korean culture has enabled us to publish books that I would never have imagined being able to publish before, such as *Dallergut Dream Department Store* (Sam & Parkers) by Lee Mi-ye, *Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop* (Clay House) by Hwang Bo-reum or *The Second Chance Convenience Store* (previously known as *The Uncanny Convenience Store*)(Namu Bench) by Kim Ho-yeon, which have naturally found their way into bookshops. They both are best-

sellers in Korea, as well as huge successes in France.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 44 – Go to the interview with writer Kim Ho-Yeon

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?type=view&idx=959&code=interview&category=66



Dallergut Dream Department Store; Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop (covers of the French ver.) and The Second Chance Convenience Store (cover of the Korean ver.)

I would like to conclude that Korean literature does not seem as foreign today as it once was, as it becomes clear that the background is eclipsed by distinctive voices which the readers recognize as singular. And these voices are even closer to us when the text produced by a talented translator allows it to equal the original. While these novels may sometimes allow us glimpses of Korean history, they also speak about a great deal more than that. They show us that fiction is sometimes more convincing than reality. They speak to us about the difficulty of being in the world, and about the time of writing, which is also that of memory. They tell a lie that enriches our existence and compensates us for the tragic condition that is ours. Novels have

their own life, their own genius - that of each writer - which can resonate with the concerns of readers far beyond their country of origin.

As for me, my only concern is to keep up the momentum, to continue to be the 'first French reader' of writers I am learning to discover, thanks to the work of talented translators, the faith that Korean publishers have placed in me, with a great deal of humility and curiosity.

BOOK TRIP

[A Trip to Literary Museums ⑦]

A Decade of Living With Poetry: The Poet's Journey Blossoming Through Verse

Chungcheongnam-do, Buyeo-gun: Shin Dong-Yeop Literary
Museum

Written by Kim Young-lhm

Buyeo is a place that witnessed the rise and fall of the ancient kingdom of Baekje, located in the southwestern part of the Korean Peninsula. It was home to the Baekje royal palace for 122 years until the kingdom's fall. Traveling to Buyeo is like traveling back in time to the glory and prosperity of Baekje. This is because you can enjoy the charm of ancient culture and arts in depth. Additionally, Buyeo is home to the Shin Dong-yeop Literary Museum, where visitors can encounter the poet Shin Dong-yeop, who resisted the painful modern history of Korea. Also, a journey to Buyeo is an encounter with a rich, long-established culture, as you can visit the Buyeo National Museum, where you can explore the various cultural heritages left behind by the Baekje people

with their delicate aesthetic senses, the Jeongnimsa Temple Site, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Gyuam Village near the Baekma River, where traces of time remain, and the Shin Dong-Yeop Literary Museum, where you can meet the poet Shin Dong-Yeop, who was born in Buyeo.



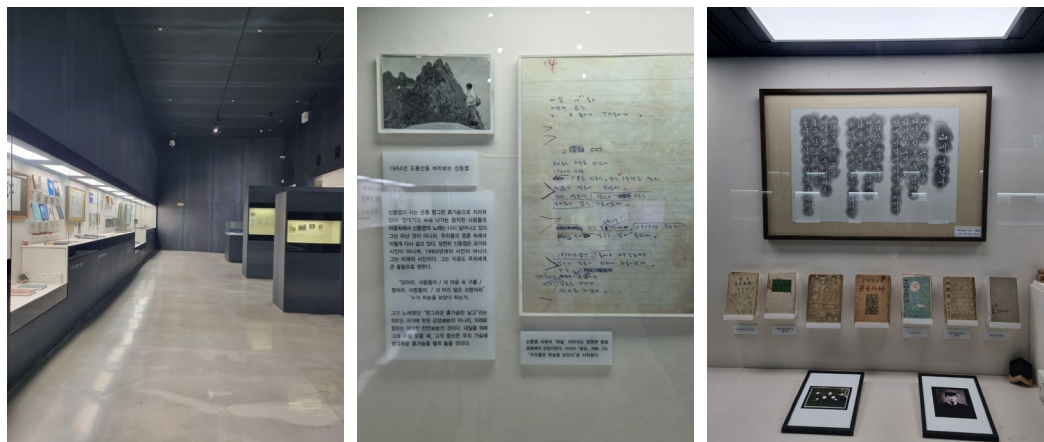
The outside views of Shin Dong-Yeop Literary Museum located in Buyeo-eup

The revival of a legendary poet who vanished at the pinnacle of poetry: the Shin Dong-Yeop Literary Museum

Shin Dong-Yeop, who left a lasting impression on the public with his poem *Husk, Be Gone*, thrived as a prolific poet for a decade after his debut in 1959 before passing away at the age of 39. Yet, he remains a significant presence in Korean literature for his many works produced during his short life and for his poetry that penetrated the maelstrom of the April Revolution (also called the “April 19 Revolution”)*. During the transitional period toward democracy, Shin Dong-Yeop burned with literary passion as a resistance poet. At the same time, he was a poet with a vast literary horizon who touched the emotions of readers with his

lyrical poems. Such a wide range of works may have been due to the fact that he was born and raised in Buyeo, a region imbued with the breath of the ancient city. His sensitive nature was sufficiently stimulated in a region rich in culture and art, giving him the impetus to grow as a poet. For Shin Dong-yeop, Buyeo was both his hometown and the source of his works. To revive its meaning, the Shin Dong-yeop Literary Museum was opened in 2013, allowing many people to remember the poet and immerse themselves in his works.

* April Revolution: A democratic uprising by students and citizens against the corruption of the government on April 19, 1960.



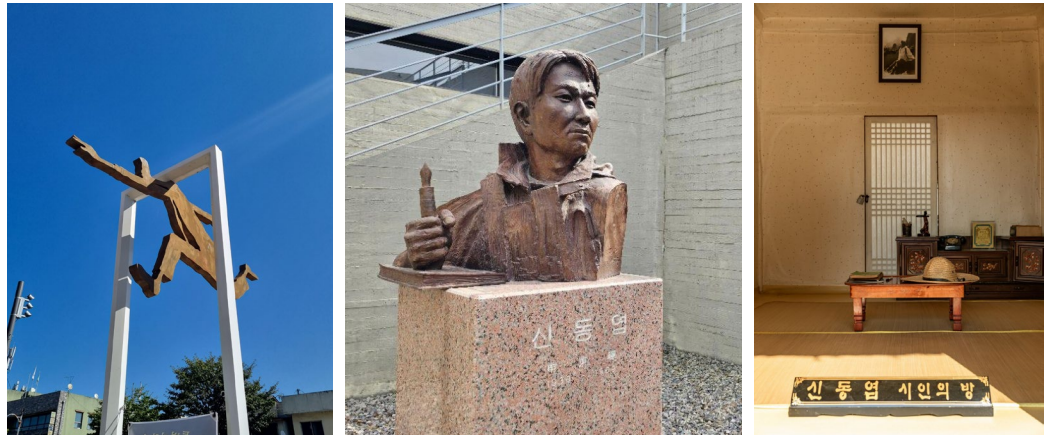
The exhibition hall displays various materials related to poet Shin Dong-yeop, including the handwritten manuscript donated by his family

The Shin Dong-yeop Literary Museum is located in the center of Buyeo-eup. Here, the poet's birthplace, where he lived and created works for most of his life, and the 460-meter-long alley that he often walked through, known as the “Shin Dong-yeop Gil (street),” are organized together, giving visitors a sense of

what Buyeo was to the poet and how proud the city is of him. The Hall is a 1,980-square-meter modern structure consisting of one underground floor, one above ground floor, a rooftop, and a garden. The unique maze-like structure was designed by leading Korean architect Seung Hyo-Sang and has become a popular destination for literature and architecture lovers. Before exploring the Literary Museum in detail, start your encounter with the poet by taking a look at the installation titled “Flag of Poetry,” set in the courtyard of the Hall. The flags are made up of several poems by Shin Dong-Yeop in the form of flags, enabling visitors to read the poems in a different style. Also, a variety of other installations on the theme of the poet exhibited throughout the museum add to the fun of exploration.

As you enter the main exhibition hall on the first floor, you will find a variety of works and belongings that shed light on the poet’s world of poetry. The exhibition is filled with Shin Dong-Yeop’s handwritten manuscripts, over 700 handwritten letters, and many photographs and books, all of which were donated by his family, creating the impression that the poet’s life has been recreated. After walking through the exhibition hall, where you could get a glimpse into the poet’s life and the fierce life he lived as a poet, you will be able to feel closer to the poet’s sentiments. If you go downstairs with this feeling in mind, there is a space set aside for visitors to leave messages for the poet, who is still with us today, revived in his works. The Literary Museum is organized in a way that allows visitors to meet the poet, understand his

works, and reflect on the poems they have embraced in their hearts. This way, the Hall enables visitors to deeply interact and connect with the poet.



Installed artwork and the poet's bust set up along Shin Dong-yeop *Gil*, and the poet's room in his birthplace

Once you are done exploring the Shin Dong-yeop Literary Museum, there is one thing you shouldn't miss. It's a straw-thatched house that has been restored to resemble the poet's birthplace, and a narrow but cozy alleyway named Shin Dong-yeop *Gil*. The small room where the poet lived and worked, and the alleyway where he would have walked through slowly, deepening his sentimental feelings, make visitors feel connected to the poet. What is even more impressive is that the alleyway is still a place where people in Buyeo go about their daily lives. People come out to the courtyard of the Literary Museum to meet with their neighbors and exchange greetings in the alleyways filled with the poet's traces. This makes it feel like the poet still lives among them.

The record of Baekje, where delicate cultural art flourished: Buyeo National Museum and Jeongnimsa Temple Site

Although Buyeo is a small city, it has a lot to offer in terms of tourism. That is because it preserves Baekje's cultural heritage. Baekje was a cultural powerhouse with a strong artistic flair. Here, we followed the traces of its flourishing culture. In walking distance from Shin Dong-Yeop Literary Museum are two important places you should not miss on your trip to Buyeo - Buyeo National Museum and Jeongnimsa Temple Site. The Buyeo National Museum mainly displays artifacts from the late Baekje period excavated in the Buyeo area. Displaying more than 11,600 artifacts in 4 permanent exhibition halls and an outdoor exhibition hall, the centerpieces are the Gilt-bronze Incense Burner of Baekje, designated as a national treasure, and the Standing Gilt-bronze Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, another national treasure nicknamed "Miss Baekje." There are also countless other exhibits that show off the magnificent culture of the Baekje Dynasty, and the museum's lobby features immersive videos featuring artifacts from the collection, which is another must-see.

In particular, the Gilt-bronze Incense Burner of Baekje, the representative artifact of the Buyeo National Museum, is awe-inspiring for its exquisite carving. The Gilt-bronze Incense Burner of Baekje is the ultimate example of the splendor of Baekje's cultural heritage, which is often described as "colorful but not extravagant, frugal but not shabby." A gracefully curved,

crouching dragon supports a mountain layered with lotus flowers, and at the top stands a phoenix with wings spread as if to fly away at a moment's notice, holding a *cintamani* (dragon's orb) under the chin. The delicacy and beauty of this single piece of cultural heritage, which makes it difficult to walk away from, is a testament to the high level of Baekje's aesthetic sensibilities.



Buyeo National Museum, where visitors can enjoy various cultural heritage from the late Baekje Dynasty



Standing Gilt-bronze Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva and Gilt-bronze Incense Burner of Baekje



Five-Story Stone Pagoda and Stone Seated Buddha at Jeongnimsa Temple Site, showing the splendor of stone architecture during the Baekje Dynasty

Nearby are the Jeongnimsa Temple Site (in Korean “Jeongnimsaji”) and Jeongnimsaji Museum, both of which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is said that Baekje moved its capital to *Sabisung* (now Buyeo) and built Jeongnimsa Temple in the center as a symbol of the kingdom. However, all that remains today are the national treasures of the Five-Story Stone Pagoda and the Stone Seated Buddha at Jeongnimsa Temple Site, while the rest of the temple site is just a vast ruin. Although the Jeongnimsa Temple Site is in ruins, the Five-Story Stone Pagoda, which exudes a solemn yet elegant aura, is a testament to Baekje’s refined and creative sense of sculpture. The pagoda, oozing with dignity and elegance, is considered to be one of the most representative examples of the beauty of Korean stone pagodas. The Jeongnimsaji Museum, built right next to it, features artifacts excavated from the site and exhibits that provide a greater understanding of Buddhism during the Baekje Dynasty. In particular, visitors can get a sense of what the temple looked like

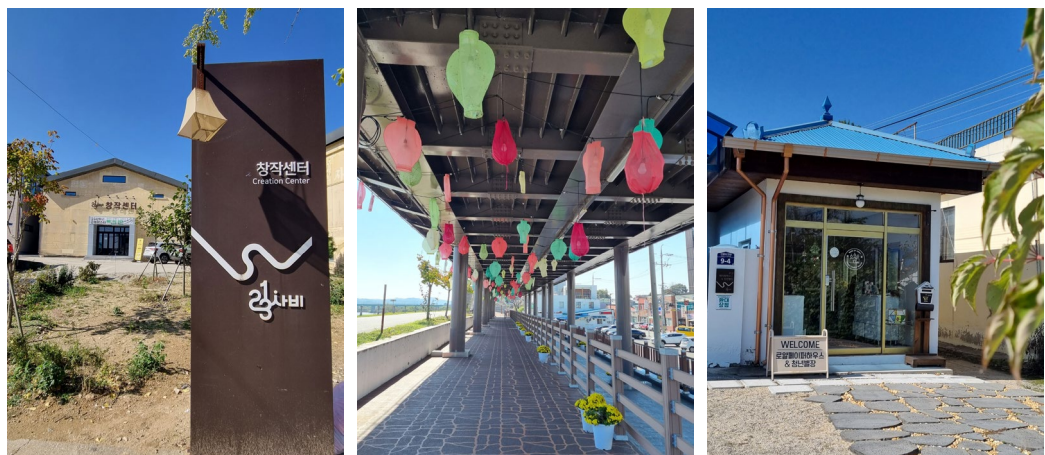
by viewing a 1/12th-scale reconstruction of Jeongnimsa Temple, as well as various artifacts excavated from the temple site.

The passion of youth breathes new life into ancient times: Gyuam Village

When traveling around Buyeo, you will notice that there are many places where you can feel the passage of time. One such place is Gyuam Village. Gyuam Village used to be a bustling marketplace along the port that led inland, and it was once famous as a “craft village” where over 600 artists lived. Over time, the village became an old town where the once-thriving prosperity is no longer visible. However, riding the wave of retro trends, Gyewam Village has started to regain its vibrancy. What was once used as a grain warehouse during the Japanese occupation of Korea is now being used as a handicraft workshop for young artisans and local residents, reviving its former fame and prosperity.

As Gyuam Village has firmly established strong roots as a craft cluster that carries on the glorious cultural arts of Baekje, a number of “regenerated” spaces have sprung up around the village, known as “Jaon-gil.” It was that creative centers, residences, art cubes, and an observatory were established to help young craftspeople and local residents coexist and spread craft culture in daily life, and vacant stores and houses in the village were converted to accommodate workshop start-ups.

As diverse and unique spaces run by young people, including workshops, bookstores, sundries stores, lodging, and cafes, began to appear, Buyeo became known as a must-visit destination for travelers. The village is now a place where the traces of time in the old houses, the quaint alleys, and the passion of young people, each with their own unique color, blend together, setting it on a path from the past through the present and into the future. In the fall, the “123 Sabi Craft Festa” is held to showcase a variety of events where visitors can interact and share their experiences through crafts. Thanks to Gyum Village, a place where you can discover how Buyeo, a long-standing city of art, is shaping the way forward through coexistence, the future of Buyeo remains young and vibrant.



Gyum Village turned into a craft village for the youth in response to retro trends

We have taken a stroll around Buyeo, a tranquil, serene region, reciting poems by poet Shin Dong-Yeop. A trip to Buyeo, which has transformed from the ancient capital of Baekje to a cultural

and artistic hub filled with literary fragrances, can be said to be a time to recharge your senses and experience the Korean beauty that has been passed down through the ages. The experience of enjoying Korea's literary and cultural heritage, left by those who lived in earlier times, adds precious meaning to the trip, and the memories of the journey will bloom even more fragrantly.

ONE-LINER QUOTES

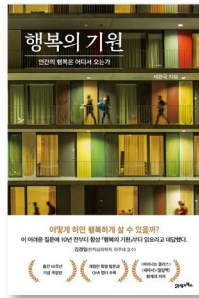
How To Enrich Your Life

Financial Planner's Pick

Written by Jung Won-Jun (Financial planner at Barun Financial Planning)

Jung Won-Jun is a freelance financial planner specializing in financial counseling and education. He advises young adults and middle-aged people in Seoul through public institutions and gives lectures to middle-aged people on finance at Seoul Open City University.

When I counsel clients on their finances, I often meet people who are not satisfied with what they have and are constantly chasing something that doesn't exist. We expect greater wealth to bring greater satisfaction, but it doesn't unless you are absolutely destitute. Money cannot be the ultimate solution because it is just one of many means. Then, how can we increase our satisfaction? I would like to introduce you to two books that will help you find the answer.



The Origin of Happiness
Seo Eun-Kuk, Book 21

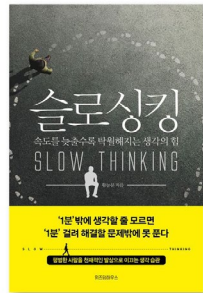


Humans are not designed to live to be happy;
they are designed to feel happy to live.

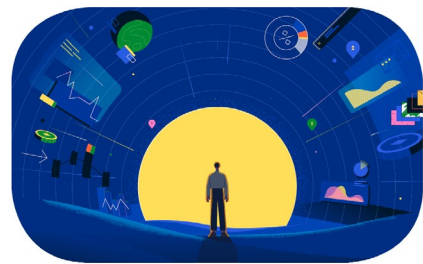
Author Seo Eun-Kuk, a professor of psychological science at Yonsei University, is a scholar specializing in the topic of happiness. He is considered one of the world's leading psychologists studying happiness. In the modern world, people are exposed to a plethora of hedonic factors. There are times when the excessive pursuit of instant happiness leads to an imbalance and a greater sense of unhappiness. *The Origin of Happiness* (Book 21) takes a concrete approach to the abstract concept of happiness and its origins from a scientific perspective. It differs from other books on happiness in three ways.

First, while other books focus on “how to be happy?,” the main concern of this book is “why do humans experience happiness?” This helps us understand the nature of happiness. Second, the book is more interested in the instinctive, animalistic side of happiness than the rational side. It gives us insight into happiness beyond social conventions and values. Third, it tries to break the mold of conventional thinking about happiness. It helps us move away from unscientific, human-centered thinking that

sees happiness as a process that requires daily effort to achieve. The idea is that we can enrich our daily lives by purposefully designing our own experiences of happiness.



Slow Thinking
Hwang Nong-Moon, Wisdom House



If you never stop thinking, you never stop growing.
And the slower you think,
the more exceptional your thinking becomes.

When counseling clients, there are times when they focus on the how, not the where. Some follow what others are doing, or what the crowd is doing, out of anxiety. If you don't have a financial goal, or if your goals don't align with your values, the process can be exhausting, and the results can be unfulfilling. So, it is important to find a productive and healthy approach while making the decisions you want to make, so that you can be satisfied with both the process and the outcome.

Hwang Nong-Moon, the author of *Slow Thinking* (Wisdom House) and professor emeritus of materials science and engineering at Seoul National University, developed Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's "Flow Theory" based on his research experience in a state of extreme immersion. Immersion is a state, not an action. You can be focused without being immersed, and you can be immersed

without being focused. The key is to understand the mechanics of immersion and set goals that align with your values. If you use immersion in the process of achieving your goals, you can begin to enjoy the process. It will make your life a lot less stressful and anxious, but instead full of joy and abundance.

KNOWLEDGE

Korean Publishing Market's Trends in 2024 and Outlook for 2025

Written by Baek Won-Keun
(Books & Society Research Institute, President)



The era of "fandoms" has arrived in the publishing sector



Han Kang wins the Nobel Prize in Literature



2025 will be the year of picture books

Trends in 2024: Questioning life, fandoms, and Nobel Prize in Literature

Philosophy and psychology books have dominated the Korean publishing market, with *Reading Schopenhauer at Forty*

(Uknowbooks) topping the overall bestseller list through August. Also, 11 of the 30 bestselling fiction titles in the first half of the year were “rebound” titles, meaning they were published more than 10 years ago. In addition, the nonfiction category returned to growth after 4 years of decline, and the cases of books becoming bestsellers after being recommended by celebrities increased.

Reading Schopenhauer at Forty has continued to grow in popularity this year after being featured on a TV entertainment series last year. The author, Kang Yong-Soo, who studied philosophy in Germany, introduces the life philosophy of Schopenhauer, who said, “Forty is the turning point in life.” As the title suggests, it has many readers in their 40s. The sales growth rate of this book and other popular Western philosophy books has been quite high, and Eastern philosophy books have also shown growth. The Schopenhauer fever has been so strong that 8 titles with “Schopenhauer” in the title were published last year as well as 13 in the first half of this year. The interest in Schopenhauer has expanded to other philosophers such as Nietzsche, Machiavelli, Platon, and Kant. In the field of Eastern philosophy, interest in Zhuang Zhou has been particularly prominent, driven by the activities of the highly popular philosopher Kang Shin-Ju. The age-old, never-ending question of “how we should live” has fueled the Korean publishing market. One of the most prominent characteristics of the fiction category was the rise of previously-published novels. For example, Yang

Gui-Ja's *Contradictions* (Write Publishing), which topped the fiction category, was originally a bestseller in 1998, 26 years ago, and has since gone through 132 printings. Also, *Gu's Proof* (EunHaeng NaMu) by Choi Jin-Young, published in 2015, went viral and gained enthusiastic support from readers in their 20s. Other examples include world literature classics such as *No Longer Human* by Osamu Dazai, *Demian* by Hermann Hesse, *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami, and *3 Body Problem Vol. 1* and *Dune Vol. 1*, which were adapted into movies and OTT videos.



Reading Schopenhauer at Forty; Contradictions; Gu's Proof

Nonfiction titles were also strong. Patrick Bringley's *All the Beauty in the World*, the top-ranked title in the nonfiction category, has garnered significant attention, reaching the top of the overall bestseller list. The book began gaining traction late last year when film critic Lee Dong-Jin named it his personal “book of the year” on his YouTube channel. Such celebrity

endorsements are powerful in terms of sales and marketing. For example, more than 13 titles hit the bestseller lists after being introduced by Lee Dong-Jin, a critic Korean readers “trust and read.” Also, books introduced by members of idol groups such as BTS, LE SSERAFIM, IVE, and others continued to make headlines.



A poetry collection commemorating the 500th issue of *Changbi Sisun*; 600th issue of *Poetry Collection* by Moonji Publishing

The poetry collections of Changbi Publishers and Moonji Publishing, the twin walls of poetry publishing, have reached their 500th and 600th issues, respectively, sparking a boom in poetry collections. *Changbi Sisun* achieved this milestone 49 years after it first began publishing Shin Kyung-Rim’s *Farmers’ Dance* in March 1975, and *Poetry Collection* by Moonji Publishing reached the feat 46 years after it began with Hwang Dong-Kyu’s *When I See a Wheel* in 1978. Every country with a thriving

literary and publishing sector has poetry collections, but few have the production, distribution, and appreciation of poetry and poetry collections like those in Korea.

It was Han Kang's winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature that struck the Korean publishing market in the second half of this year. The news that Han Kang, a novelist and poet, had become the first Korean to win the Nobel Prize in Literature broke on the night of October 10. The whole country rejoiced. Among the 121 winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Han Kang is the 18th female winner and the first Asian woman. As described by her father, the famous novelist Han Seung-Won, her sentences are "delicate, exquisite, and heartbreaking." At the heart of them are the suffering and pain of the Korean people who lived through turbulent modern history. Han Kang has never hesitated to plunge into tragedy with her incredible sense of empathy. The sales (including orders) of Han Kang's key titles, including *The Vegetarian* (Changbi Publishers), *Human Acts* (Changbi Publishers), *We Do Not Part* (Munhakdongne), *Greek Lessons* (Munhakdongne), and *Yeosoo's Love* (Moonji Publishing), exceeded 1 million copies in Korea's top three online and offline bookstores alone within five days of the award announcement, and over 3 million copies were printed within a month. However, local bookstores that missed out on sales by not being able to obtain the books early on publicly complained to publishers and wholesalers. Also in the spotlight was a small bookstore, "Bookstore Today (책방오늘)," which Han had run for 6 years.

Though the bookstore has become a tourist attraction, she recently announced that she will be taking a break from running it for the time being.



“Bookstore Today,” a small 10-square-meter bookstore in Seoul run by Han Kang



The Vegetarian; Human Acts; We Do Not Part

Sayno Love (Day One), a down-to-earth life guide for young people by an anonymous, self-made, super-rich author, has sold more than one million copies, hitting 60th printing in July this year, 17 months after its publication. The book is a symbol of “practical reading” for young readers, looking for books that are immediately useful and cost-effective. Relatedly, e-book reading platform Millie Seojae analyzed that there is a strong preference for books that give “wise solace” through a scientific approach. Examples include emotional and psychological books based on research findings in brain science, such as *Brain Science When Depressed* and *Your Brain Wants Optimization*. This shows that the trend of so-called “how-to” books is spreading beyond practical and self-help books to include other genres such as nonfiction, psychology, and liberal arts.

Meanwhile, one of the hot issues in the Korean publishing world this year was the Seoul International Book Fair, which celebrated its 70th year (it turned international in 1995). This year’s event, which was held for five days starting June 26, attracted a historic record of 150,000 paid visitors, making it an iconic symbol of the so-called “Text-Hip,” a culture passionate about reading. The book fair featured 452 exhibitors from 19 countries, presenting more than 450 different programs. Among the exhibitors, publishers specializing in genre fiction such as SF, fantasy, and romance were particularly popular, and many young female readers’ purchase of books and participation in events confirmed that “genre fiction is the mainstream.” Book fairs, too, have now

entered the era of fandoms.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 73 – Go to the article about the 2024 Seoul International Book Fair
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1454&page=1&code=trend&category=60

At the “2024 K-Book Copyright Market” organized by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) at Lotte Hotel in Jamsil, Seoul, two days before the opening of the book fair, business meetings between about 100 Korean publishers and 100 buyers, including overseas publishers, took place. The event, which was held on the largest scale this year with the expanded publishing export support policy, garnered strong responses both at home and abroad, as overseas buyers were invited to hold copyright consultations and visit the book fair together in an effort to export copyrights of Korean books.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 71 – Go to the article about the 2024 K-Book Copyright Market
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=1410&page=1&code=info&category=75



The 2024 K-Book Copyright Market (June 24–26, 2024)

Outlook for 2025: The “year of picture books,” expanding reading horizons

The global economy is mired in recession and high prices. Readers’ demand for reading and search for new pursuits and growth will also affect publishing. I look forward to the performance of self-help books and all kinds of practical books in the Korean publishing market. Additionally, education-related books, such as study guides for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as books on parenting, which have a structurally significant share in the market, are expected to perform well. The growth of literary publishing, boosted by the "Han Kang effect," is also anticipated. Furthermore, as Korea enters an ultra-aging society, there will be an activation of publishing plans targeting the elderly, along with the production of large-print books. The release of new works by famous authors and the continued fandom phenomena driven by celebrity recommendations will also persist. Also, it is expected that many books will be published marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan.

Meanwhile, AI digital textbooks will be introduced to schools in Korea from 2025 for the first time in the world. The Ministry of Education explains that AI textbooks will provide optimized learning paths, customized plans, and support for students based on the AI-based diagnosis and analysis of students’ learning capacity. The plan is to introduce them first in math, English,

computer skills, and special education for grades 3 and 4 of elementary school, grade 1 of secondary school, and grade 1 of high school from 2025, and to replace paper textbooks with AI digital textbooks for all subjects by 2028. If the introduction of such digital textbooks is fully implemented as planned, the ecosystem of reference books interconnected with paper textbooks will be severely affected, and the negative impact on the publishing market is likely to be devastating.

Private organizations related to books in Korea are planning to organize various activities for 2025, designating it as the Year of Picture Books. While they have been rolling out “Year of Books” projects for different readers since 2020, the next five years will feature picture books (2025), literary books (2026), history books (2027), science books (2028), and art books (2029). Why picture books? Because they are books that anyone from 0 to 100 years old can easily read together, books that are at the beginning of reading life, and literary and art books that have a message. In Korea, there is a city (Wonju, Gangwon-do) that proclaims itself the City of Picture Books. There are more than 100 bookstores specializing in picture books across the country, and there are picture book libraries and museums throughout many cities. I expect next year to be a year in which more people will fall in love with picture books and have more fun reading them.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Chaeksesang Publishing Co.

Dreaming of a virtuous cycle of intellectual growth through books



The logo of Chaeksesang Publishing

We are living in a globalized world. Many people think that various technological factors are the drivers behind globalization, but there are few mediums that enable people around the world to share sentiments and knowledge across cultural and linguistic boundaries like books. Books are more than just a tool for conveying information or stories - they play an important role in helping people of different backgrounds and values empathize and communicate with each other. This is why the

world needs good books. Believing that good books can make the world a better place, Chaeksesang Publishing is committed to publishing books that are timeless and essential for everyone in the globalized world. Following is an interview with Chaeksesang Publishing, a company that strives to create a world of value and intelligence.

It's a pleasure to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce Chaeksesang Publishing to our international readers and provide the meaning of the company's name.

Hello, everyone! Thanks for inviting us to *K-Book Trends*. Our mission is to “help the world flourish by sharing knowledge and culture through publishing.” The name of the company, Chaeksaesang, has two important meanings. First is “the world (*sesang*) of books (*chaek*).” It reflects the belief that we can have an in-depth, extended understanding of the world through books. And the other is “books (*chaek*) inside the world (*sesang*).” It is our will to introduce various voices and values in the world through books. Based on this, we pursue publishing that promotes meaningful interactions with readers and constant intellectual growth.

We hope to share this philosophy with our global readers, spreading knowledge beyond the boundaries of different cultures and languages. Believing that books know no boundaries, we look forward to building a better world with all of our readers.

You have been publishing a wide range of books in the fields of social sciences, humanities, and classics since the company started in 1986. Chaeksesang Publishing has been making “books that are essential and long-lasting for today’s readers.” What do you think is a “book that makes the world a better place”?

We think that “books that make the world a better place” are those that not only provide intellectual stimulation for readers, but also help us reflect on society and individuals. For us, a “better world” is an open society where diverse voices and values are respected and where different perspectives can coexist. Books that play an important role in creating such a society are those that help readers deeply reflect on themselves and society, and inspire them to dream of a better future.

The best examples include books that raise awareness of social issues, books that help readers introspect their own lives through humanistic reflection, and books that convey universal values across time and space, such as classical literature. These books don’t just convey knowledge, but motivate readers to think about new ideas based on that knowledge and put them into practice. Based on the philosophy of making “essential books for today’s readers” and “long-lasting books,” we are focused on providing quality content that is not swayed by short-term trends. We believe that these books can resonate deeply with readers, regardless of the era, and empower them to make the world a better place.

You have published more than 1,000 titles during the past 30 years. What do you think is the competitiveness and prowess of Chaeksesang Publishing that have helped it stay in business for so long?

The first is our commitment to our enduring philosophy and values. As we mentioned earlier, we have always had our motto of “changing the world for the better through good books” at the center of our business, and we have consistently published thoughtful books in a variety of fields, including the social sciences, humanities, and classical literature. This philosophy has been instrumental in establishing us as a trusted publisher that has stood the test of time, rather than being swayed by short-term market fluctuations or trends.

Second is our obsession with high-quality content. Chaeksesang Publishing has been striving to make books that can convey meaning to readers over a long period of time, rather than content that is quickly consumed. To this end, we pursue close collaboration with authors to publish books based on in-depth research and analysis, and seek high perfection not only in the content but also in editing and design. This adherence to quality is what differentiates Chaeksesang Publishing and is an important factor that has earned us the trust of our readers.

Third is communication with readers. Chaeksesang Publishing does not just publish books, but continuously communicates with readers and tries to reflect their needs and demands. We have particularly focused on capturing topics and issues that

readers can relate to in line with the changing needs of the times. This has been the prowess of Chaeksesang Publishing, growing with readers and making books that can have a positive impact on their lives.

Given that you have published so many books over the years, it seems like your publishing focus may have changed with the times and trends. What are some of the areas and topics that you are focusing on these days?

Topics such as inequality, fairness, and justice have recently emerged as important social issues around the world. Chaeksesang Publishing is committed to publishing books that address these topics to help readers gain a deeper understanding of social issues and encourage introspection. Examples include books on the marginalized, discrimination, and fair opportunities. We are also focused on climate change and environmental issues, which have become a global concern; we are paying particular attention to books that address issues of environmental protection and sustainable futures. Issues related to gender, race, and cultural identity are also emerging as important publishing topics. We are publishing many titles that lead the discourse on creating a society that respects diverse identities and helps people coexist without discrimination. Last but not least, as the 4th Industrial Revolution, the development of AI technology, and digital transformation are advancing at a

rapid pace, we are also concentrating on books that analyze and prepare for the impact of technology on society and individual lives. These are books that raise philosophical questions about the opportunities and challenges of technological advances and the relationship between humans and technology.

You have been leading the liberal arts market with paperback series such as *Our Time* (우리시대) and *The World of Classics* (고전의 세계). Since paperback covers a small segment of the Korean publishing market, why did you choose to publish these two series in paperback, and what are the advantages of this format?

The reason why Chaeksesang Publishing published *Our Time* and *The World of Classics* series in paperback was to make knowledge and liberal arts more accessible to readers. Even though paperbacks represent a relatively small portion of the Korean publishing market, we chose this format for its many advantages and possibilities. Modern readers are eager to learn knowledge and culture in their busy lives, but they often find it difficult to carry thick books around with them. However, paperbacks can be easily picked up and read anytime and anywhere, supporting readers' daily reading. So, the *Our Time* and *The World of Classics* series, which cover a wide range of topics, are a great way to gain exposure to a vast amount of knowledge without much effort.

The series *Our Time* tackles key issues and humanistic topics

in contemporary society, while remaining accessible to readers. And, *The World of Classics* series provides brief introductions to important works from classical literature, philosophy, and history, while still keeping the essentials simple enough for readers to understand quickly. This condensed delivery of essential knowledge and liberal arts is another advantage of paperbacks.



The World of Classics series

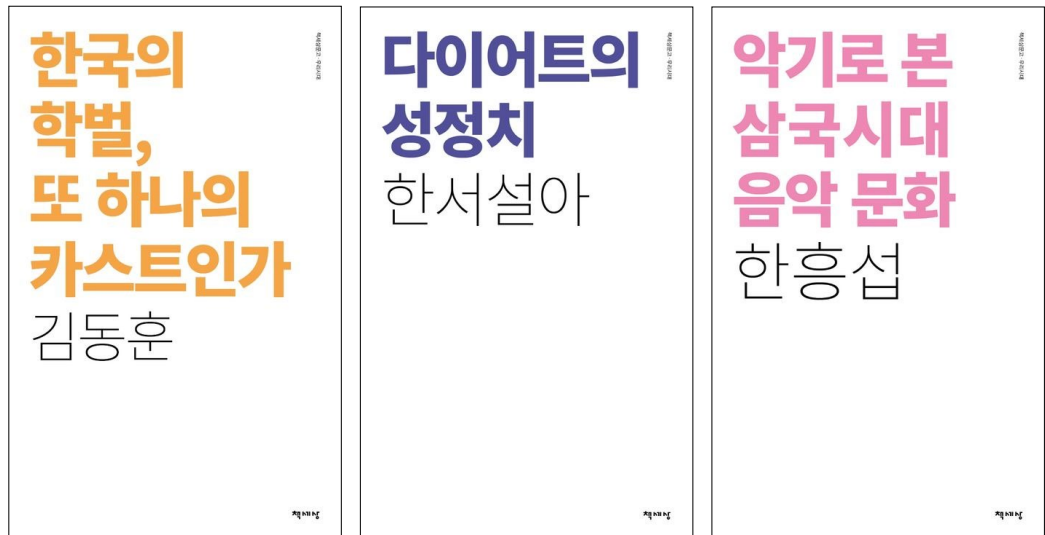
In addition, paperbacks are available at an affordable price. This enables readers interested in a wide range of topics to easily purchase multiple books and build their knowledge. In the liberal arts market, the paperback format offers readers an affordable option, contributing to the popularization and spread of knowledge. It also helps to increase the sense of accomplishment in reading and build sustainable reading habits, as books can be completed in a short time. For these reasons, Chaeksesang Publishing aims to expand the scope of the paperback market with its paperback series, making knowledge more accessible and familiar to readers.

Our Time, in particular, has covered more than 100 topics. It has recently been published as a re-covered edition. There are many books in the *Our Time* series that analyze and interpret Korea's complex modern history through various approaches. Which books do you think can help international readers understand Korea in particular?

Most books in the *Our Time* series attempt to analyze socially important issues through a critical lens. This helps you see the topic in a more dimensional way. The series covers a variety of topics, but we would like to introduce some books that may be especially helpful for international readers who want to understand Korean society more deeply and dynamically.

The book, *Hakbul in South Korea: A New Caste System?*, tackles one of the darker aspects of Korea's educational achievements - "*hakbul* (academic elitism, usually based on the level of university)" - to critically analyze how the overemphasis on education and "*hakbul*" have affected Korean society while offering alternatives. Another book, *Diet and Gender Politics: Beauty Pressure in South Korea*, analyzes the experiences of women who diet to improve their appearance, highlighting the emphasis on physical appearance in Korean society, especially for women. Also, *Crafting Korean Musical Aesthetics: Instrumental Innovation in the Three Kingdoms* focuses on the improvement of traditional instruments and the unique musical aesthetics of Korea, noting that although Korean traditional music is heavily influenced by Chinese music, it is not a passive adaptation, but

rather an active reception through creative transformation.



The *Our Time* series – *Hakbul in South Korea: A New Caste System?*;
Diet and Gender Politics: Beauty Pressure in South Korea;
Crafting Korean Musical Aesthetics: Instrumental Innovation in the Three Kingdoms

Chaeksesang Publishing has been publishing not only books by Korean authors, but also quite a few translations. How do you think this creates synergy in the overall publishing business?

Publishing many translated books as well as books by Korean authors is an important factor that creates various synergies across the publishing business and enhances the competitiveness of Chaeksesang Publishing. We would like to explain the positive impact of publishing translated books on the company in several aspects.

To begin with, translated books introduce works that have already been recognized abroad to Korean readers, giving them a chance to experience global knowledge and new perspectives.

Also, Korean readers can be exposed to knowledge in various fields such as history, society, culture, and science from other countries through translated books. This plays a huge role in broadening their knowledge and horizons, and as a publisher, we get the opportunity to participate in global discourse.

Plus, working on translated books serves as an opportunity to facilitate the exchange of literature and knowledge at home and abroad. By introducing international trends to Korea through translations, new ideas and discourses can be presented to Korean readers. This contributes to filling the domestic publishing market with more diverse and rich intellectual resources, and as a publisher, it also plays an important role in strengthening our connections to the global market.

For Korean authors, too, it provides opportunities to learn about global publishing trends and to naturally understand the topics, styles, and formats that work in the global market, giving them inspiration and creative opportunities. It also increases the chances of their work entering the international market. Other benefits include enhancing the publisher's brand value and building a complementary relationship between translated and local books.

Interaction with readers has also become a very important part of the publishing industry. What kind of programs, platforms, and communication channels does Chaeksesang Publishing use to interact with readers? Also, please tell us about the impact of these efforts on your business, including book publishing.

Chaeksesang Publishing recognizes interaction with readers as an important business element in the publishing industry, and has been strengthening interactions with readers through various activities, programs, and platforms. Such interaction plays a crucial role in building trust between publishers and readers, and in publishing books that reflect readers' needs. Online platforms, in particular, are an important channel to communicate directly with readers; we share news about new books, book-related events, and collect reviews and feedback from readers to reflect them in our marketing strategies - all of which helps to generate interest, understanding, and purchase of books. We are actively engaging with readers through participatory programs such as book review clubs, online book talks, and meet & greets with authors, as well as cooperative activities with independent bookstores and offline activities, sharing the experience of creating books together. The feedback from readers during these processes helps us keep up with market trends.

Chaeksesang Publishing is partnering with independent bookstores to further build connections with readers offline. We are building close relationships with local readers through

activities such as specifically featuring Chaeksesang Publishing's books in independent bookstores or hosting reading clubs inside the bookstore. This local-based interaction helps to create a more personal and intimate relationship between the publisher and readers. Also, our recent marketing strategy using re-covered editions is a way to strengthen our interaction with readers. By republishing readers' favorite books with new covers and designs, we are able to give them a new collectible value and attract the attention of both existing and new readers.



Chaeksesang Publishing makes efforts to strengthen interactions with readers offline
(Source: @chaeksesangwww.instagram.com/chaeksesang/)

Chaeksesang Publishing has been keeping up with the constantly changing publishing market and continues to publish books of various genres. What are some books that Chaeksesang Publishing is particularly proud of and would like to introduce to international readers?

Although we have many books by Korean authors, we would like to recommend some of the books that can show the identity of

Chaeksesang Publishing, especially to international readers who are interested in Korean society and culture.

Chaeksesang Publishing is a publisher that has published the complete works of Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche in 21 volumes, and continues to publish Nietzsche-related books. Among them, *Thus Spake Zarathustra: A Commentary and Analysis* is a good guide to understanding Nietzsche's ideas, as philosopher Jung Dong-Ho, who translated *Thus sprach Zarathustra*, which is considered to be a condensed compilation of Nietzsche's philosophy, provides a thorough commentary that follows the structure and flow of the original works.

The next book, *Mom, What Color Do You Want to Wear When You Die?* is an essay that begins with a mother caring for her demented mother, who travels to her daughter as an escape. Hearing about her grandmother's dementia and her mom's stories of caring for her grandmother, the author shares casual and relaxed conversations with her mom about what preparation and hard work goes into caring for an aging parent, what a good death is, and what she would want her own end of life to look like, which will inevitably come at some point.

It's been a while since its publication, but *Voices from the June Democracy Movement: A Memory History of 1987* is not to be missed. It reexamines the June Struggle for Democracy in 1987*, one of the most influential moments and events in the structural transformation of Korean society, through the methodologies of "memory" and "narrative." Instead of focusing on the grand

discourses of “direct rule, democratization, protest, and martyr,” that have historically defined the movement, the author recreates the struggle by focusing on what those who lived through the period (but not recorded in history) remember and what stories they hold.

* The June Struggle for Democracy in 1987: A series of democratic movements that rose up across the country against the government.



Thus Spake Zarathustra: A Commentary and Analysis; Mom, What Color Do You Want to Wear When You Die?; Voices from the June Democracy Movement: A Memory History of 1987

You have been doing business by specializing in different areas over time. Could you tell us about the way in which Chaeksesang Publishing hopes to shape the world through books, as well as your future goals and upcoming plans for new titles?

It has been Chaeksesang Publishing’s mission for the past 30 years to publish insightful books in various fields and share knowledge with readers. We aim to keep this philosophy and publish books that create new values that are in line with the

changing times.

With a focus on spreading knowledge, Chaeksesang Publishing plans to publish books that make complex social and philosophical issues more accessible to all. To achieve this, we will continue to update our liberal arts series, such as the *Our Time* series, and cover new topics. We also plan to publish books on the environment and sustainability to meet the needs of the times. The rapidly changing digital era and technological advancements are having a profound impact on society as a whole, so we will be publishing books that encourage readers to reflect on the relationship between humans and technology as well as the future of society, while also focusing on diversity and inclusion, covering topics such as gender, race, and cultural identity in depth. Last but not least, we will continue to interact with younger generations. We will make the most of digital content and Social Media platforms to reach out to younger readers accustomed to digital media and mobile environments, and design books that reflect their interests and concerns, providing them with content they can relate to.

Chaeksesang Publishing will continue to be a partner in making the world a better place by publishing meaningful books in various fields to help readers gain the knowledge and insights they need in changing times, just as we have been all along.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Yoon Jung-Mi

Hoping that the seeds of diligent creation will bear fruit in the form of great works

Children are like sponges - they have an amazing ability to absorb many different things. That's why picture books are their best friends, as they expose them to new worlds and diverse experiences. Through them, children can develop a deeper and broader mind. Here, we meet writer-illustrator Yoon Jung-Mi, who makes picture books for children that break down prejudices and embrace diversity. She writes and illustrates picture books that tell heartwarming and sparkly stories, and always attempts to do something new through her work. Following is an interview with writer-illustrator Yoon, who continues to capture various approaches to finding happiness that everyone can relate to in her fresh stories.



It's an honor to have you with us on *K-Book Trends*. Please say hello to our readers along with a brief introduction of yourself.

Hello, everyone. I'm picture book writer-illustrator Yoon Jung-Mi. I once had a vague dream that I wanted to live drawing – I have been lucky enough to be living that dream for 10 years now.



The First Day When a Little Wolf Got a Pair of Glasses

You won the Grand Prize for Nonfiction at the 2024 Korea Picture Book Award with your book, *The First Day When A Little Wolf Got A Pair of Glasses* (Sakyejul Publishing). The book was reviewed as “an artistic nonfiction picture book that captures the fun facts behind glasses and illustrates them through beautiful pictures.” Could you tell us a little bit about the book, the message you wanted to share, and how you felt about winning the award?

The protagonist of the book, the “Red Hat,” is a character that really likes glasses. The story about glasses begins when the Red Hat meets a little wolf with bad eyesight on her way to run an errand and decides to go together to have a new pair of glasses. Today, glasses are one of the common items that anyone can wear, but there are various stories hidden within. I wanted to tell those stories through fun and unique pictures. And, I’m glad and thankful that such hope reached the judging panel. I would like to thank them once again.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 76 – [Go to the article about the 2024 Korea Picture Book Award](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/admin/manage/webzine/preview_board_k.php?idx=1486)
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/admin/manage/webzine/preview_board_k.php?idx=1486

The book has been lauded as “the birth of a completely new and sensational nonfiction picture book.” It seems fair to say that it has opened up another direction and possibility for picture books. Where do you get the ideas for this book and where does the source of your work come from?

The history book about glasses that I picked out of curiosity was really interesting. It gave me the idea to write a nonfiction picture book about glasses. I tried to imagine everything except the information and knowledge. I tightly wove information into drawings that combined objects that had nothing to do with glasses, such as flowers growing out of glasses, and glasses turning into hourglasses. These non-realistic drawings evolved into a nonfiction picture book that doesn't seem like nonfiction. I try not to give thought to the traditional picture book framework when I'm working.

On top of that book, your various other works, such as *One Fine Day* (JEI Education) and *Downpour* (Sigong Junior), have been published in other countries. What was the reaction from overseas markets, and what do you think is the books' appeal to international readers? Also, it would be great if you could tell us an episode about your books, if there is any.

It was when *One Fine Day* was displayed at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. An elementary school teacher from Italy

sent me an e-mail asking if she could purchase the book. It was a time when the book had not yet been exported to another country. There, she told me that the book's unique colors give off a warm vibe, unlike the picture books made in Italy.

In the book *Downpour*, which has been exported to China and Taiwan, most of the scenes are filled with greyish colors. The lack of saturation and color might give it a somewhat cold feeling, but underneath it all is an authentic and comforting story with the depth that creates brightness.

My picture books exported overseas have heartwarming stories and illustrations. They are about children finding some small happiness in ordinary daily life. I believe that picture books that console and empathize with readers can be loved universally across national borders.



One Fine Day and Downpour

It seems that the strengthening power of Korean literature will lead to a greater interest in Korean picture books. What do you think is the competitiveness of Korean picture books as a writer-illustrator who exported many works to other countries, and what are you particularly doing to reinforce such competitiveness?

There were not many workshops when I first began studying picture books. But now, there are various events such as quality workshops and picture book studies, attracting so many to-be writers who dream of becoming a professional writer. Quantitative growth will naturally lead to qualitative growth. Writers are constantly making new attempts, competing in good faith. I also always think about how “unfamiliar” my story is when I’m working. So, I try not to be conscious of a specific genre or audience.

The book *Urban GANADA* (Hyang Publishing) combined elements like hidden picture puzzles, *Hangeul* (Korean alphabet), and riddles, and the book *Downpour* was related to dictation. It seems like a fresh take on integrating various activities into a picture book. What message did you aim to convey to young readers through the book?

Urban GANADA is a book about *Hangeul* because I found beauty in its form. A city is one of the things made by humanity where light and shadow coexist. It would be endless to talk about this. But, readers tend to focus on learning *Hangeul* rather than the

story about cities. It's actually the charm of picture books that they sparkle with their own energy, regardless of the author's intention. And, I believe that such energy will reach readers and have a positive influence on their dreams and values.

The book *Downpour* was motivated by my memory of a childhood friend. That friend used to get a zero on dictation, but she always had a big smile on her face. It would be so great if the two books could be used in a variety of ways for children.



Urban GANADA

You are a writer and also an illustrator. What synergies does this create in your overall creative life, and what are the relative challenges?

The beginning of making picture books was as an outsourced project, where I would receive a manuscript and draw the illustrations. I didn't write the text, so I tended to work with the publisher's intentions. Working on both the text and illustrations was great because it allowed me to play with different ways of visualizing the story - it opened up all sorts of possibilities.

However, I think it can be challenging because creative ideas don't come to you every day.

You must be putting much effort into the ideas or concepts for your works. It seems that picture books require authors to be at eye level with children and to capture their childlike spirit. Is there any particular activity you are doing for your work as a picture book writer-illustrator?

The main audience of picture books is still children. I think I should continue to make efforts to understand children. And, I'm making dummy books and holding exhibitions regularly with a group of writers. It's very inspiring to see the works of my colleagues, drawn in their unique outlines. Even though we have different orientations towards picture books, different ways of life, creativity, and passion, it actually enriches our opinions and thoughts on each other's work. This experience not only helps us understand children, but also helps us get off our own island of thought and create better works. Organizing a get-together might be worrisome for creators, as their ideas are their property, but for me, the benefits far outweigh the risks. The dummy book exhibition, which is held every two years, provides unspoken pressure and creative drive for even the slackest of creators. It's also a great way to get feedback from publishers by putting your work out there. One of the dummy books we exhibited was published as *The First Day When A Little Wolf Got A Pair of Glasses*.

Meanwhile, as picture book boundaries have begun to break

down these days, more picture books are targeting all age groups. To be prepared for the trend, I'm exploring the works and writings of my favorite artists and getting motivation. It's something that any writer would do, but I think it is important to do it with the utmost diligence.

We are sure that every picture book writer has some memorable works that they read as a child. What fairy tales or picture books do you think influenced you to become a picture book writer in some way, and what kind of energy do they generate when you are writing?

I don't remember growing up with many picture books in my house, but I do remember reading them to my youngest sister often, especially the Korean folk tale *Heungbu and Nolbu*, which I enjoyed acting out while reading. Last year, I published a book about the swallow from that story. I think the childhood picture book memories stayed somewhere in my head and guided me to creative writing.

The recent winning of the picture book award is expected to become an important turning point for you in your career. It heightens expectations for your future work. Could you please share with us your future plans and goals?

I'm working on a follow-up to the recent work. It's a nonfiction picture book about another essential thing in life. I hope to continue to make picture books that inspire people.

LET'S TRY

Learn From the Basics: A Guide to Your Body

Event

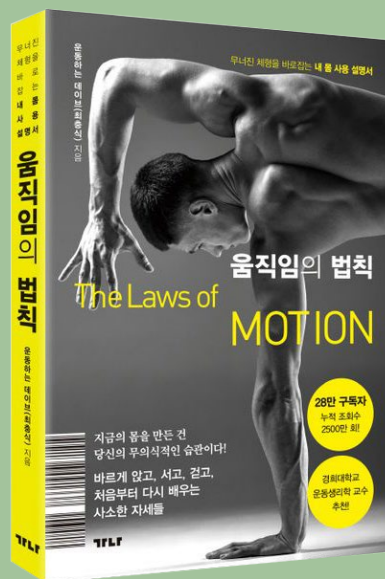
[Let's Try](#) introduces various useful, practical books published in Korea every month.

Also, don't miss gift events related to the introduced books!

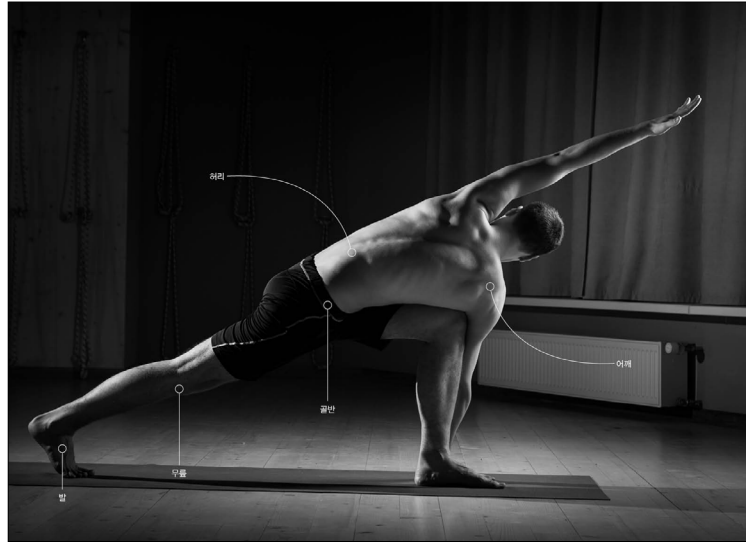
Simply click on the link below and make an entry to the event! Let's Try!

The Laws of Motion

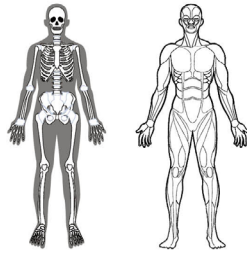
- Written by Work Out With Dave (운동하는 데이브)(Choi Choong-Sik), published by GANA Publishing



A professional posture therapist shares
how to sit, stand up straight, and walk the right way!



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더 길었을 겁니다. 그리고 고등학교 3학년 때를 떠올려 보세요. 동교에서 하교할 때까지 또는 야간직업학습 시간이나 학원에 가서까지 하루의 대부분을 앉아서 보냈습니다. 몇 년간의 좌이불 몇십년, 몇백 년으로 늘어 생각해보세요. 오랜 시간 몸을 움직여야 생존할 수 있게 진화해 온 인간은 몇백 년간의 문명 발달을 견뎌야 점점 움직임을 잃고 앉아서 보내는 시간이 길어지게 되었습니다. 이제 대부분의 시간을 앉아서 생활하죠.

문제는 한 자세로 오래 있거나 특정 동작을 지속적으로 반복하다 보면 근육과 관절의 움직임이 점차 제한되게 됩니다. 사지를 움직일 때 극심한 관절이 움직일 수 있는 범위를 '가동범위'라고 하는데 관절과 근육의 가동범위가 점점 제한되는 것이죠. 사용하지 못하는 근육의 기능이 다하면 주변 근육으로 전이되고 근간격계 전체에 연쇄반응이 나타나기 시작합니다.

척추가 부드러운 움직임을 잃어버리면서 근육의 긴장도가 점점 높아지고, 이는 기초대사량 저하, 신진대사 저하와 같은 생리적인 변화로 이어집니다. 각종 불편함과 통증 그리고 두통과 소화장애 등 다양한 형태의 변화를 불러올 수 있죠. 현대인들이 많이 걷는 라운드 숄더가 대표적인 예입니다. 책상 앞에 앉아 모니터를 보고, 타자를 치는데 집중하다 보면 고개는 앞으로 내밀고, 어깨가 앞쪽으로 열리는 자세가 되죠. 이는 목에 무리가 갈 뿐만 아니

Sometimes, you wake up tired and think, “Hey, my body doesn’t feel like it’s mine.” And sometimes, you just feel like your body is breaking down. Even if we don’t push ourselves or get hurt, our bodies are slowly collapsing because of our bad habits. Crossing your legs, doing turtle neck, or leaning on one hip - if these little habits are causing you uncomfortable pain, *The Laws of Motion*

is for you. The author, who runs the YouTube channel “Work Out With Dave” and has been a posture therapist for over 10 years, introduces “how to use your body.”

While it is important to work out every day, it is even more important to restore balance in our bodies and fix any bad habits. And, as parts of our body are connected organically, it is necessary to have a proper knowledge and understanding of our body’s nature, rather than trying to fix a particular area. The book, *The Laws of Motion*, visually explains body shapes, muscle movements, and exercises through more than 100 illustrations. We hope the book will encourage you to make small changes in your daily routine to bring your body back into balance, and to use that restored balance to get fit and healthy. By the time you are done reading and following the exercises, you will be an expert in your own body!

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www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1520&code=knowledge&category=67

K-READER

Belong Nowhere to Belong Everywhere

After reading *Melanin*

Written by Kim Jin-Hwan (Reader of *K-Book Trends*)

In this article, Korean readers of *K-Book Trends* recommend Korean books they have read to international readers. If you would like to recommend a Korean book that impressed you to international readers, please send us an email to the address below!

kbooktrends@gmail.com

When I found out that *Melanin* (Hankyoreh Publishing) was a story about “someone born with blue skin,” I expected it to be about SF or superpowers. I assumed that it would be about a new species different from an ordinary human being, thinking of “Mystic” from the movie “X-Men.” But, I was completely wrong – I also realized that I had prejudice and discriminative thoughts inside me. Even if the protagonist was born with blue skin, he

was a human being just like us. No matter what skin we might be born with – be it white, black, or yellow, or no matter how we might have a disability, be a certain religion, be homosexual, or be in any other minority, we are the same kind of human being.



Melanin

This book is a deeply thought-provoking piece about human identity and social prejudice. Through the protagonist, Jae-Il, the author highlights how the simple difference of skin color has been used as a tool for social stratification. Born blue-skinned to a Korean father and Vietnamese mother, Jae-Il is always the marginalized child in the country, at home, at school, and in his social community. In the story, Jae-Il immigrates from Korea to the US, only to be met with the same discrimination and a new label: Asian.

“I was not a sage who could
belong everywhere by belonging nowhere.
I was just an individual - small, young, and blue.”

In the US, Jae-Il finds it difficult to adapt to the new environment at first, but soon he meets good friends. He also gets a friend who has the same blue skin as his. But, life in the US was not as easy as it seemed. Just like how Jae-Il said, “This skin color sends me to the lowest class,” classmates bully him, teachers are racist in class, and his dad looks the other way. We, too, have times when we have to adapt to a new environment or be supported by nobody. Maybe that is why I could empathize deeply with his sorrow and loneliness. And, it also makes me wonder if I have ever been uncomfortable with differences.

Is blue skin a curse, or the birth of a new humanity? Whatever the answer, there is no doubt that they are the same human beings as us. This book goes beyond the discourse of skin color, and addresses the underlying stereotypes and discrimination in our society. I believe that our society can truly progress only when more various types of people can shine in their own colors. I recommend this book to you, hoping you read it and share your impressions with other readers abroad.

* Use quotes from the book to make wallpaper for your mobile phone!

[www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1519&code=knowledge
&category=93](http://www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/event.php?ptype=view&idx=1519&code=knowledge&category=93)

NEW BOOKS

How Many Earths Do We Need to Live Like We Do Today?

The future of the world as seen through movies!



★ ★ ★

Spoiler alert!

At times, movies capture phenomena more accurately and pointedly than documentaries.

The future of humanity is no exception.

This is a book for teenagers curious about what the future of the world will be!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

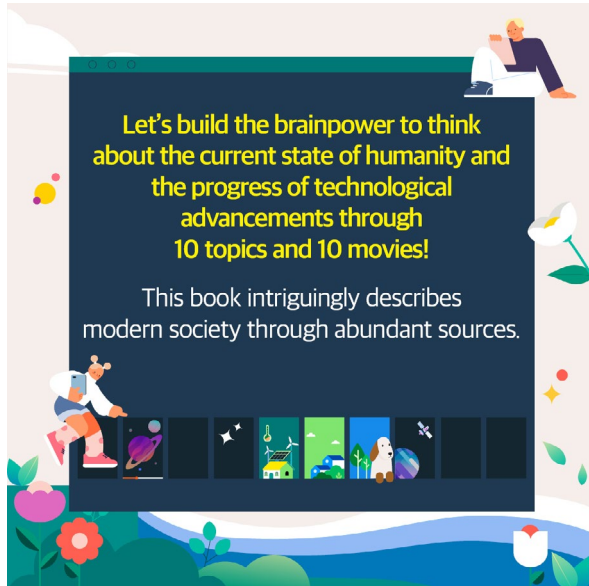
The book,
*How Many Earths
Do We Need to Live
Like We Do Today?*

explores solutions for
our future through ★
familiar movies like
“Mad Max,”
“Minority Report,”



Let's build the brainpower to think
about the current state of humanity and
the progress of technological
advancements through
10 topics and 10 movies!

This book intriguingly describes
modern society through abundant sources.



The fact that artificial intelligence reflects human
bias could be an opportunity - an opportunity
to realize that bias and fix it.

- from “Is AI as fair as we think?,”
AI - Minority Report



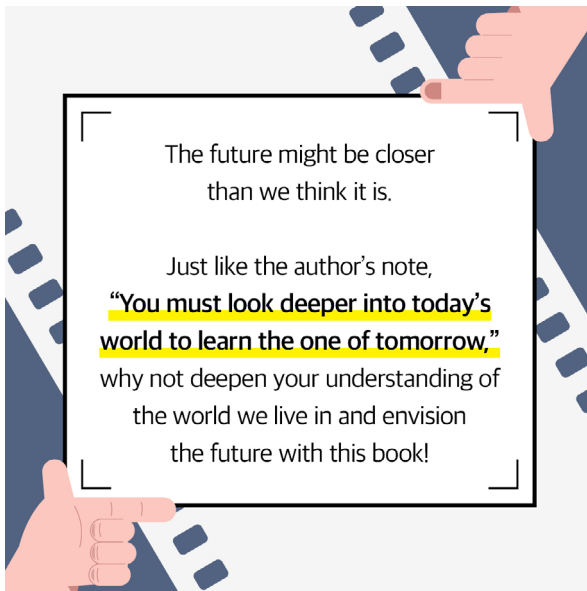
The book discusses topics you might have wondered about while watching movies, such as **resource depletion, energy transition, AI, inequality, and social robots!**

Let's look for solutions for humanity's coexistence with Earth, and practice them together!



The future might be closer than we think it is.

Just like the author's note, **"You must look deeper into today's world to learn the one of tomorrow,"** why not deepen your understanding of the world we live in and envision the future with this book!



Dreaming of a future better than that in movies!



BEST SELLERS

1st Week, November 2024

Best seller Trends in the Three Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea

It's the first week of November in Korea, where the late fall scenery is at its peak. In the midst of a great season for reading, the overall reading boom has been spearheaded by Han Kang, an acclaimed writer in Korea. The afterglow of her Nobel Prize in Literature has hardly faded, and her novels have continued to dominate the best seller lists this month following on from last month. For example, readers' hearts have continued to be mesmerized by *Human Acts*, which hit the number one spot in all 3 online bookstores following last month. This was followed by *The Vegetarian*, which was adapted into a play in France and attracted even more attention, and *We Do Not Part*, the most up-to-date title, came in third. In addition, her *The White Book*, *I Put the Evening in the Drawer*, and *Greek Lessons*, which sparked a reading frenzy, also made the best seller list.

After the US presidential election, which was at the center of

global attention, the so-called “Trump effect” carried over to the bookstores. The book *Trump 2.0 Era* immediately rose to fourth place on the best seller list, with the author, an economic expert, providing precise analysis on how to turn “Trump Risk” into “Trump Chance.” Another book that makes it to the best seller list every year at the end of the year, *Trend Korea 2025*, remained steadfast in the eighth spot. Renowned for its comprehensive diagnosis of various sectors of society and sharp insights and analysis of Korean trends, *Trend Korea 2025* has become a must-read in the business arena.

People’s interest in cookbooks rose with “Culinary Class Wars,” a Korean survival cooking show released on Netflix that drew global attention. The No. 1 among the best selling cookbooks was *Choi Kang-Rok’s Recipe Note*, which is a cooking essay by chef Choi Kang-Rok, who was a participant in the show and is currently running a cooking channel on YouTube. It is not just a compilation of recipes or an introduction to good restaurants – it explains details about “ingredients and taste.” Plus, readers’ other cookbook picks were *Bbibbo Bbibbo Simple & Healthy Baby Food Recipes*, *Bbuni Topping Baby Food*, and *Oozoo Mom’s Healthy Baby Food All Year Round*, most of which were books where readers can find information about baby food. This indicates Korean readers’ great interest in children’s health.

* The rank of best sellers below was organized after integrating domestic best sellers in the first week of November from the three biggest online bookstores in Korea – Kyobo Bookstore, Aladdin, and Yes 24.

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of November

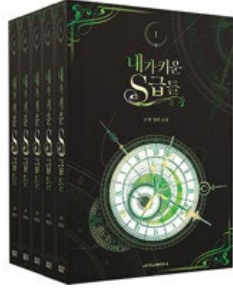
1		<p><i>Human Acts</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Changbi Publishers Genre Fiction</p>
2		<p><i>The Vegetarian</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Changbi Publishers Genre Fiction</p>
2		<p><i>We Do Not Part</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
4		<p><i>Trump 2.0 Era</i></p> <p>Author Park Jong-Hoon Publisher Glopus Genre Business</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of November

5		<p><i>The White Book</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
6		<p><i>I Put the Evening in the Drawer</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Moonji Books Genre Poetry</p>
7		<p><i>Greek Lessons</i></p> <p>Author Han Kang Publisher Munhakdongne Genre Fiction</p>
8		<p><i>Trend Korea 2025</i></p> <p>Author Kim Nan-Do Publisher Mirae Books Genre Business</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of November

9



My S-Class Hunters

Author | Geunseo
Publisher | JAYPLEMEDIA
Genre | Fiction


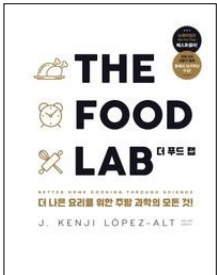



10



Tokyo Aliens 9

Author | NAOE
Publisher | Seoul Media Comics
Genre | Comics

Top 5 cookbooks for the 1st week of November

1		<p><i>Choi Kang-Rok's Recipe Note</i></p> <p>Author Choi Kang-Rok Publisher Teul</p>
2		<p><i>The Food Lab</i></p> <p>Author J. Kenji Lopez Publisher Youngjin.com</p>
3		<p><i>Bbibbo bbibbo Simple & Healthy Baby Food Recipes</i></p> <p>Author Ha Jung-Hoon Publisher Yuni Chaekbang</p>
3		<p><i>Bbuni Topping Baby Food</i></p> <p>Author Jung Ju-Hee Publisher Saseowon</p>
5		<p><i>Oozoo Mom's Healthy Baby Food All Year Round</i></p> <p>Author Kim Seul-Ki Publisher Sam & Parkers</p>

#K-BOOK

#Imagination

KPIPA Introduces K-Books for Global Publishing Markets through K-Book Platform

Waiting for Mom

1. Publication Details

Title | Waiting for Mom
Author | Lee Taejoon; Kim Dongsung
Publisher | BORIM PRESS
Publication Date | 2013-10-30
ISBN | 9788943309725
No. of pages | 40
Dimensions | 220 * 240



2. Book Intro

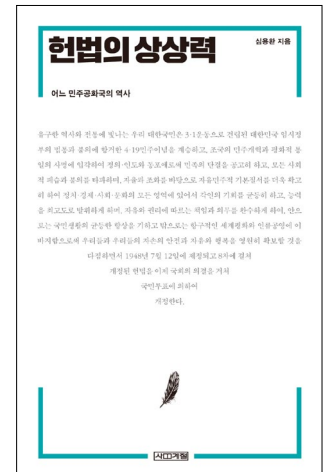
A very young boy is waiting for his mom at the tram stop. Each time a tram approaches, he asks “is my mom coming?” His nose is red due to the cold weather, but he keeps waiting for his mom. The famous Korean novelist Lee Taejoon, who is known for his simple and crystal-clear writing style, wrote this short story, and Kim Dong Sung illustrated it to make this picture book. The book delivers the heartwarming and heartbreaking affection of the boy for his mom. The intersecting background images of the 1930s’ Korean landscapes and the boy waiting for a tram add special charm to this picture book.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3438

The Imagination of the Constitution

1. Publication Details

Title | The Imagination of the Constitution
Subtitle | The History of a Democratic Republic
Author | Shim Yonghwan
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2017-02-17
ISBN | 9791160940121
No. of pages | 352
Dimensions | 145 * 220



2. Book Intro

This book examines the constitutional histories of the US, Germany, Japan, France, Chile, Northern European countries, and South Korea and challenges readers to ask what makes up a good constitution. The constitutional history of the world can be seen as one in which the liberties and rights of citizens are guaranteed and expanded. As the history of each country is different, however, the way in which citizens record their history is also different. What can we infer from the fact that many countries of the world went through numerous iterations of their respective constitutions, including South Korea where the Constitution underwent nine different changes over a span of 70 years?

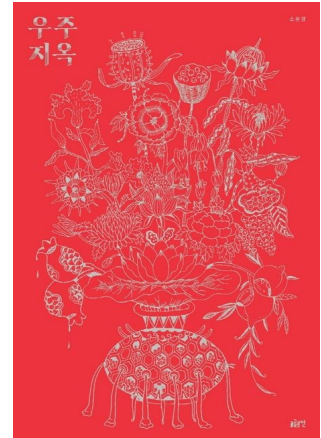
Author Shim Yonghwan relates each moment of Korea's constitutional change to the constitutions of other nations. He then relates the definitions and values that each country wanted to establish to the political ideas of Marcus Tullius Cicero, Reinhold Niebuhr, Robert Michels, Erving Goffman, John Stuart Mill, and Emile Durkheim. To this end, Shim examines Germany's Weimar Constitution (the so-called archetype of the democratic constitution) and the reasons why it could not prevent the emergence of Hitler and Nazi Germany while also examining how Syngman Rhee was able to easily change the Constitution of the Republic of Korea to extend his power. In addition, Reinhold Niebuhr's Moral Man and Immoral Society is referenced to uncover how rational human beliefs can become distorted in large groups. What's more, John Stuart Mill's Considerations on Representative Government is referenced to analyze how Park Chung-hee's Yu-shin regime and Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship of the 1970s and 1980s came to be accepted by the citizens at the time. Shim elaborates on history, philosophy, politics, and ideas to remind readers that the ultimate authority is owned by people. By restoring this sense of ownership, we will be able to forge a new future. This book will be a spark of imagination to those seeking justice and common sense in Korea at a time when the need for the people's own constitutional story is stronger than ever.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=243

Galactic Hell

1. Publication Details

Title | Galactic Hell
Author | So Yoonkyoung
Publisher | Gloyeon
Publication Date | 2022-07-22
ISBN | 9788992704724
No. of pages | 46
Dimensions | 210 * 302



2. Book Intro

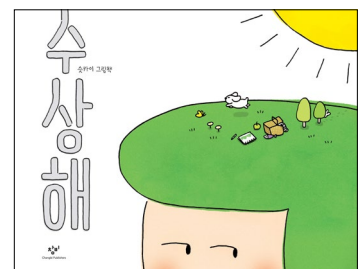
Hell, a primitive reference point for a beautiful life
A hell that no one had ever experienced or imagined was expressed through grotesque images. The author draws a hell star somewhere in the unknown universe that greedy humans are exiled to when they die. Once you reach the Hell Star, the gates of Hell await you, engulfed in blazing flames with the giggling laughs of various animal heads and skeletons. It's the beginning of hell, from which there is no return. Seventeen hells come out one after another which are described with visuals and expressions beyond imagination, and as soon as you open the book, you're immersed in a terrifying world of hell. It paradoxically preaches the message to respect oneself and others, and treat nature with a clear and pure heart through the appearance of hell.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6976

Suspicious

1. Publication Details

Title | Suspicious
Author | Skye
Publisher | Changbi Publishers, Inc.
Publication Date | 2019-05-27
ISBN | 9788936447458
No. of pages | 44
Dimensions | 247 * 187



2. Book Intro

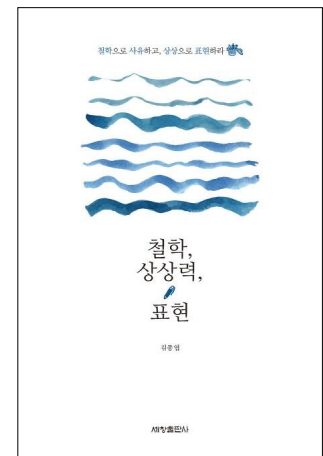
Susangi walks slowly today, too. Looking at the green juice his father made for him, following footprints in the muddy ground, he stops repeatedly. The world is filled with suspicious things. Suspicious lovingly describes how children's hearts pound lovingly because of their friends.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3445

Philosophy, Imagination, and Expression

1. Publication Details

Title | Philosophy, Imagination, and Expression
Subtitle | Think through Philosophy, Express with Imagination!
Author | Kim JongYop
Publisher | Sechang Publishing Co.
Publication Date | 2017-08-25
ISBN | 9788984117006
No. of pages | 260
Dimensions | 152 * 225



2. Book Intro

Philosophical imagination refers to the reflection on one's own life as a part of nature. In other words, it is aesthetics about the mind's blankness stemming from "distancing." The journey of this distancing is a natural process that helps us to experience the unknown and realize our value and identity.

In an era where most practical values center around making a living, the "distancing" of philosophical thinking is neither convincing nor powerful. Our senses have been dulled by social inertia, and only if we revitalize them and courageously look into every corner of life will we come to accept philosophical thinking to be very natural. Contemporary philosophy is different from past philosophy in that the former deviates from universal style. Contrary to classical philosophies, which have defined the universal mode of human life since the modern period, contemporary philosophy affirms various ways of human existence and restores human rights. In that sense, this book does not attempt to explain ancient, classical, and modern philosophers and their thoughts at a detailed, individual level; instead, we think about why we should learn philosophy and what we can learn from philosophy, nurturing the universal, intrinsic, and philosophical imagination. Throughout the text, the book also asks appropriate questions about what we have considered common sense. These questions are expected to guide us on how to appreciate and continue to enjoy

philosophy.

This book has been written based on the contents of the actual class and its outcome. No matter how much time it takes, the class intends to keep up with modern thinking, go beyond the boundary of teaching and learning, and help students freely spread their wings.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=6726

The Flower Goblin

1. Publication Details

Title | The Flower Goblin
Author | Kim Onbi; Seo Jihoon
Publisher | ISEOWON Publishing Co.
Publication Date | 2017-09-06
ISBN | 9788997714902
No. of pages | 46
Dimensions | 250 * 237



2. Book Intro

A red, ugly goblin lived in a field of flowers deep in the forest. He loved nothing more than to eat flowers. Whenever he gulped down a flower with his big mouth, a flowery fart came out! Brrt! He ate a red rose, and it smelled of roses. Pfft! He ate a purple morning glory, and it smelled of morning glory. He then ate a yellow dandelion. I wonder what it smelled like?

Then, a pretty butterfly followed the smell of the flowery farts and flew to the goblin. Suddenly, the pretty butterfly invited the goblin to a fart contest. The goblin and butterfly ventured off to a place deep in the forest where the fart contest was being held. I wonder how the goblin will do at the fart contest?

The book is designed to help children's sensory development by encouraging them to imagine smells that are difficult to imagine.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4011

Head and Heather

1. Publication Details

Title | Head and Heather
Author | Sung Cho
Publisher | MIMESIS CO.
Publication Date | 2022-05-15
ISBN | 9791155352731
No. of pages | 264
Dimensions | 185 * 257



2. Book Intro

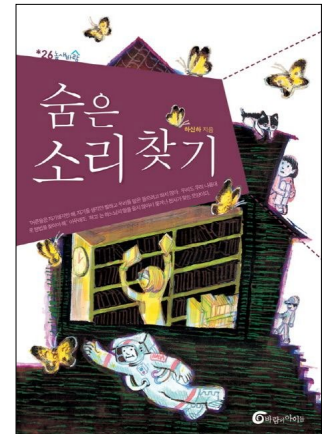
Sung Cho is a storyboard artist for film and TV series. Through his first graphic novel *Head and Heather*, he presents the readers with the enchanting world of graphic novels. The protagonist is a Head, who has the body of an adult but is slow-witted. While trying to save a black cat from danger, Head loses a leg. The guardian of Head, Dr. Myeong-jun Oh, who made a great achievement in biotechnology back in his days, regenerates Head's damaged body using a unique medical technology. However, the cat dies right after a brief communication in animal language with Head. Ever since witnessing this death, Head starts gaining human qualities. Meanwhile, a corpse of a murder victim gets reborn by Dr. Oh as a being called Heather. Head is frightened by this new, strange creature, but Heather becomes a significant being that expands the consciousness of Head. Head and Heather are surrounded by people who exchange life for technology, set a price to life, and have selfish views on life. But these two choose to live as altruistic humans making their own decisions, not merely as a technological outcome produced by a scientist. From the very start Head and Heather runs towards the sentiment of the very last page and is a work in which Sung Cho's experiences are mixed with emotions in which imaginations begin with "if."

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=7098

Searching for Hidden Sound

1. Publication Details

Title | Searching for Hidden Sound
Author | Ha Shin-Ha; Yang Kyunghee
Publisher | Baram Books
Publication Date | 2011-10-15
ISBN | 9788994475233
No. of pages | 136
Dimensions | 148 * 210



2. Book Intro

Searching for Hidden Sound has multiple narrators, with Jihye's mother, Mrs. Han Sung-sil, Maeng Ji-hye herself, and her father, Mr. Maeng Wan-seok, all taking turns telling their stories. The three family members all appear as narrators and share their stories and each story is independent of the other two. However, in all three stories, mysterious figures who are only visible to the main character appear. To Mrs Han Sung-sil, the invisible figure is a model student. To Jihye, it is Jihye's cat "Hago," which she raises secretly in her room. And to Mr. Maeng Wan-seok, the figure is a talkative boy. These strange characters suddenly appear and disappear. Jihye takes in the abandoned cat and gives it the name of 'Hago', meaning the cat from heaven, and takes good care of it behind her mother's back. The cat tells Jihye, "If you want to say something, you should," then suddenly disappears. In addition, there is no trace of the cat ever having lived in her Room. Did it really exist? Anyway, thanks to the cat's support, Jihye is able to tell her mother everything she wanted to say, and she realizes that she may have trouble if she just does whatever she feels like doing.

Everything is strange about the boy who appeared to Mr. Maeng Wan-suk, who lives separated from his family and works at a remote weather station. A child who was discovered in a warehouse suddenly and then disappeared. Even though they spent so much time talking together, strangely no one saw him. But the child is not just a ghost, because the stories that the child talked about have a special meaning. The child's fictional stories were like a mosaic projection of the dreams of the now-adults who worked at the weather station. Maeng Wan-seok can finally express his suppressed longing for his family. Dreams and imagination are like flags on the path to happiness.

The child at the library, the smart cats, and the boy are all the dreams and images that Jihye's family have buried deep inside their hearts. And these dreams and images are in a way their true selves. Han Sung-sil, who had always been strict with children at the library, wanted to please them. Jihye, who is usually just a good kid and easily give up on her dreams, sometimes wants to release her true feelings to the world, even when they're not so polite. That is why Jihye's father, Maeng Wan-suk, went to the warehouse in search of a boy. Herds of butterflies, worms, and ants

poured out as if the closed doors opened up the heart in his imagination. It is natural that changes to a frustrating and boring daily routine come from the heart. It may be a fantasy or a dream or even magic. Who knows my heart if I don't? So, one day, if a stranger comes to us, we should welcome him. In this way, *Searching for Hidden Sounds* recommends the reader to listen honestly to their heart and emotions.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1987

Goblins and Taoist Deities Live Side by Side at a Temple

1. Publication Details

Title | Goblins and Taoist Deities Live Side by Side at a Temple

Subtitle | From crabs, otters, rabbits, pigs to goblins... Treasure Hunt

Author | Oh Seungdae

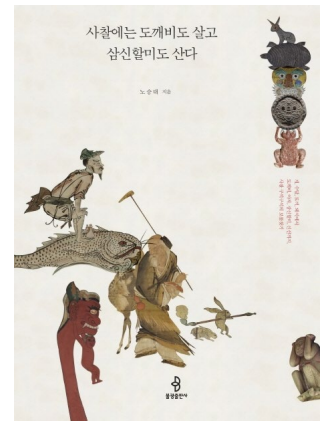
Publisher | Bulkwang Media

Publication Date | 2019-10-10

ISBN | 9788974796976

No. of pages | 512

Dimensions | 170 * 230



2. Book Intro

There are many things for us to see and discover at a Buddhist temple. For example, animals like lions, dragons, elephants, and Kalavinka (an imaginary bird with sweet notes referred to in Buddhist sutras) derived from the Indian Buddhist texts and that reached the Korean temples by way of China; or tigers and goblins; and the “three gods” in the form of a grandmother, who are the guardians of childbirth, and are indigenous to Korean culture but incorporated into Buddhism. The four gracious plants—plum, orchid, chrysanthemum and bamboo—representing a gentleman scholar, are part of the Confucian influence, or the Taoist heavenly deities are also attention grabbers as well as the crab, grapes, rabbits, and turtles seen on the murals are from the Korean folklore paintings. Then there is the pig that is standing guard at the temple, protecting it from any hazards of fire. The book tells the tales of diverse animals and plants that are found at the temples, citing, at times, the Buddhist sutras, sometimes the traditional Korean culture, if not other religions. Since Buddhism reached Korea, after its origination in India by way of China, there are of course many stories having to do with the histories of different regions.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2897

SQUARE SQUARE GYM CLASS

1. Publication Details

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2. Book Intro

Box Star Galaxy is home to square-shaped creatures. Box Star 531 is a school where squares learn what they need to know to live. In gym class, the squares learn how to become strong squares, and they also learn about the “safety bag” which helps squares to safety when they are in danger.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=4152