Research on Actual Condition of Public Art of Exterior Space of The Seoul City Gallery Project

Kim, Jeong Joo · Kim, Shin Won*

Graduate, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Kyung Hee University
Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, College of Art & Design, Kyung Hee University*

+Corresponding author : Kim, Shin-Won, kimsw@khu.ac.kr
Abstract

Public art, by its peculiar character, is reflected the uniqueness of where the work is installed, and enriches urban life by contribution to the formation of place. The display of public art, however, is sometimes determined by using quantifiable results rather than an attempt to reflect the character of the city. As a result, the art is not always well harmonized with its surroundings. Moreover, the art comes to be regarded as visual pollution when it loses its artistic value or its function. Effective public art is the relationship of the art work itself with its surrounding space, as well as the relationship between the art and its appreciators.

As part of public art studies aimed at improving the city environment, this study analyzes the current status of public art through on-site examinations of the relationship between the art and its environment, specifically those projects that are part of the Seoul City Gallery Project. The project is analyzed by the character, location, and environment of each display in order to understand the current status of the art. Problems concerning public art were determined in this way.

The research is examined the characteristics, location type, and surroundings with a check-list based on the analysis tool, and through a field study.

Unsuitable location, lack of care for a night scape, absence of information and description of a work, and non-recurrent event, as a result of analysis, are checked as problems. They seem to be due to non-organic link of relationship among the work, space, appreciator, and artist. Therefore, legal and institutional underpinning of the independent public art should be prepared for harmonious public art with space. Also management, support, and maintenance system should be prepared in order not to complete a work as a temporary event but to develop continuously.

The City Gallery Project in the future should give priority to how to incorporate the local characteristics, communication with residents, and participation of residents, and advance in harmonization with surrounds and city overall. Also the project should be progress as a continuous project with close connection with large design projects which Seoul is promoting.

For public art to be recognized as the important factor that it is to the outdoor space of a city, this study suggests that art be displayed for its own sake but also to be used as an important means to utilize city space. Moreover, this study suggests that identifying the organic relationship between the art and landscaping, architecture, and city planning is necessary.