

Lee Yong-Soo “Comfort Women” Human Rights Research and Creative Activity Student Fellowship

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Spreading Awareness on Campus and Social Media



Imus4cwa



Hello, I'm

**Ireh
Kim**

Hey everyone! I'm in my final year at Loyola Marymount University, and I'm the one running this account. Through my fellowship, I'm on a mission to educate my peers about the history of comfort women, a topic that's deeply important to me. Looking forward to catching you at the workshops!



*International Relations Major
History Minor*

2023-2024 Lee Yong-soo Comfort Women Human Rights Research and Creative Activity Student Fellowship

Feel free to drop me a message if you have any questions about the fellowship or if you're interested in applying in the future!

Supporting the Fellowship

Swing by the workshops if you can! And if you can't make it, pass the message along to friends who might not be well-versed in Korean history!

The 2023-2024 Lee Yong-soo 'Comfort Women' Human Rights Research and Creative Activity Student Fellowship is dedicated to advancing research and activism on the survivors of the Comfort Women tragedy. Named after Lee Yong-Soo, a prominent survivor and activist who sought recognition and an apology from the Japanese government for WWII sexual enslavement, this fellowship supports studies into historical and contemporary issues of sexual violence, enslavement, and human trafficking worldwide.

This topic has always been of deep personal significance to me, and discovering a chance to contribute to its awareness and understanding compelled me to apply. Fortunately, I was awarded the fellowship at the end of last semester, allowing me to devote my final college semester to a meaningful project.

As part of my fellowship and with great help from Professor [Stella Oh](#), I will host two workshops on campus to raise awareness on the topic of comfort women. These workshops will be focused on students' creative work, which will later be posted on social media. Given the lack of coverage in our education system on the Korean War and this specific tragedy, I aim to enlighten my peers and foster ongoing awareness. I want to ensure this part of history is never forgotten.



Liked by [heangjin.park](#) and others

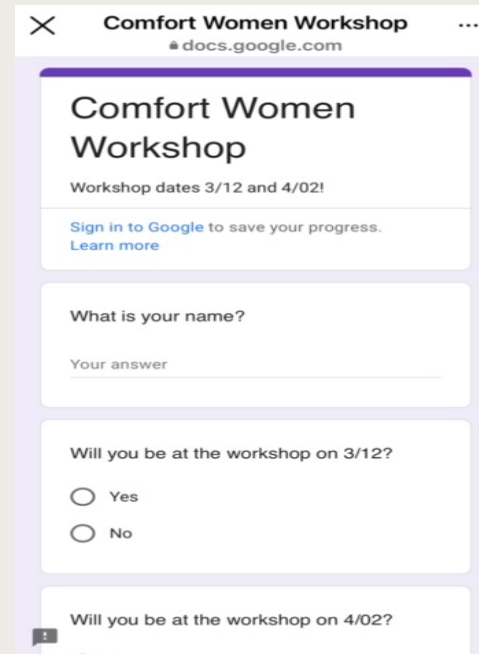
Imus4cwa A little about me! Hope to see

History of
"Comfort
Women"
Creative Workshop



Sharing My Research with the Campus Community

- Created an Instagram Account @Imus4cwa
- Worked with Campus Events to secure venues for two workshops
- Created Google Doc to facilitate reservations to the workshops
- Purchased and provided Korean snacks for the workshops
- Purchased and provided art materials for workshops
- Collaborated with Cultural Affinity groups and classes on campus to promote the workshops
- Engaged students with history of “comfort women” and critical and creative reflections



× Comfort Women Workshop ...
#docs.google.com

Comfort Women Workshop

Workshop dates 3/12 and 4/02!

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress.
[Learn more](#)

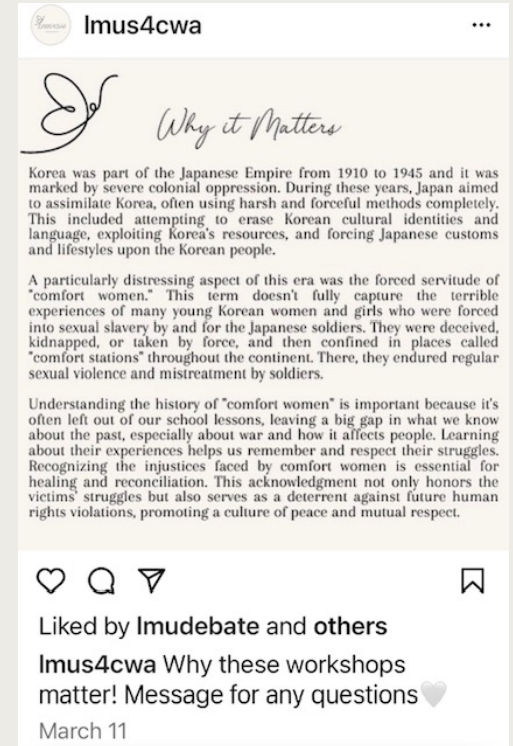
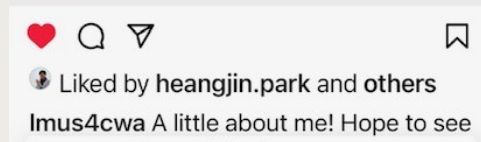
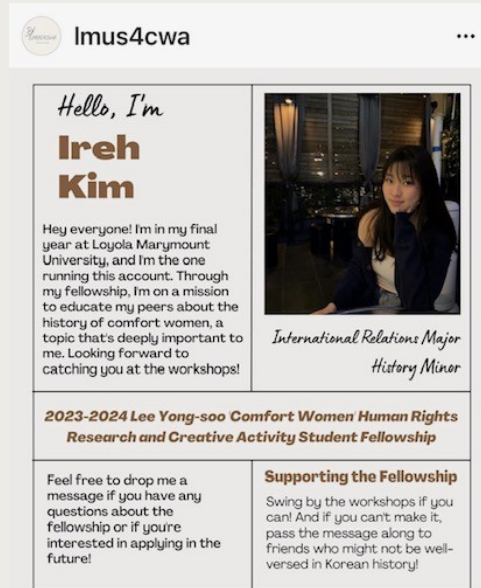
What is your name?
Your answer _____

Will you be at the workshop on 3/12?
 Yes
 No

Will you be at the workshop on 4/02?



Created Instagram @Imus4cwa Loyola Marymount University





Imus4cwa



9 Posts 89 Followers 149 Following

LMU Students for Comfort Women (Artwork) 🦋

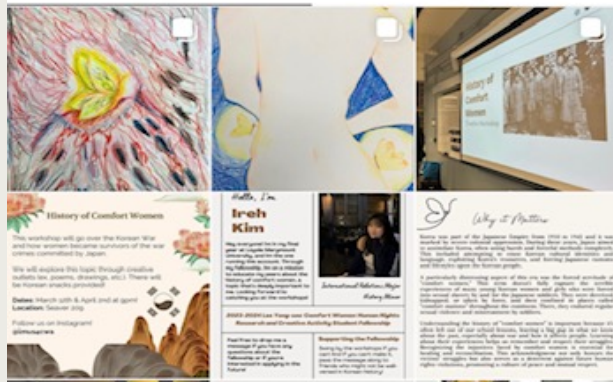
Raising awareness of comfort women & showcasing artwork by LMU students in honor of victims and survivors
forms.gle/5GAL6LMdXkcFGeBV6



Followed by **chachingdy** and **heanjjin.park**

Following ▾

Message



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Why it Matters

Korea was part of the Japanese Empire from 1910 to 1945 and it was marked by severe colonial oppression. During these years, Japan aimed to assimilate Korea, often using harsh and forceful methods completely. This included attempting to erase Korean cultural identities and language, exploiting Korea's resources, and forcing Japanese customs and lifestyles upon the Korean people.

A particularly distressing aspect of this era was the forced servitude of "comfort women." This term doesn't fully capture the terrible experiences of many young Korean women and girls who were forced into sexual slavery by and for the Japanese soldiers. They were deceived, kidnapped, or taken by force, and then confined in places called "comfort stations" throughout the continent. There, they endured regular sexual violence and mistreatment by soldiers.

Understanding the history of "comfort women" is important because it's often left out of our school lessons, leaving a big gap in what we know about the past, especially about war and how it affects people. Learning about their experiences helps us remember and respect their struggles. Recognizing the injustices faced by comfort women is essential for healing and reconciliation. This acknowledgment not only honors the victims' struggles but also serves as a deterrent against future human rights violations, promoting a culture of peace and mutual respect.

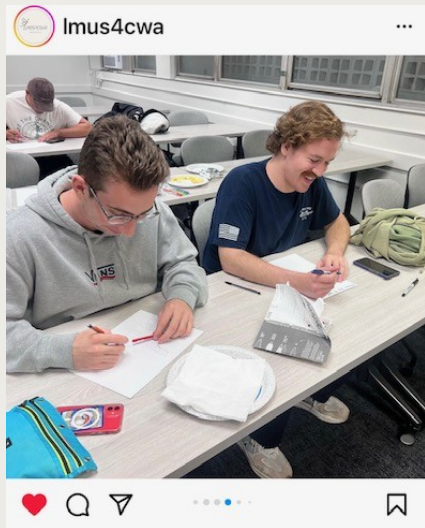


Liked by **Imudebate** and **others**

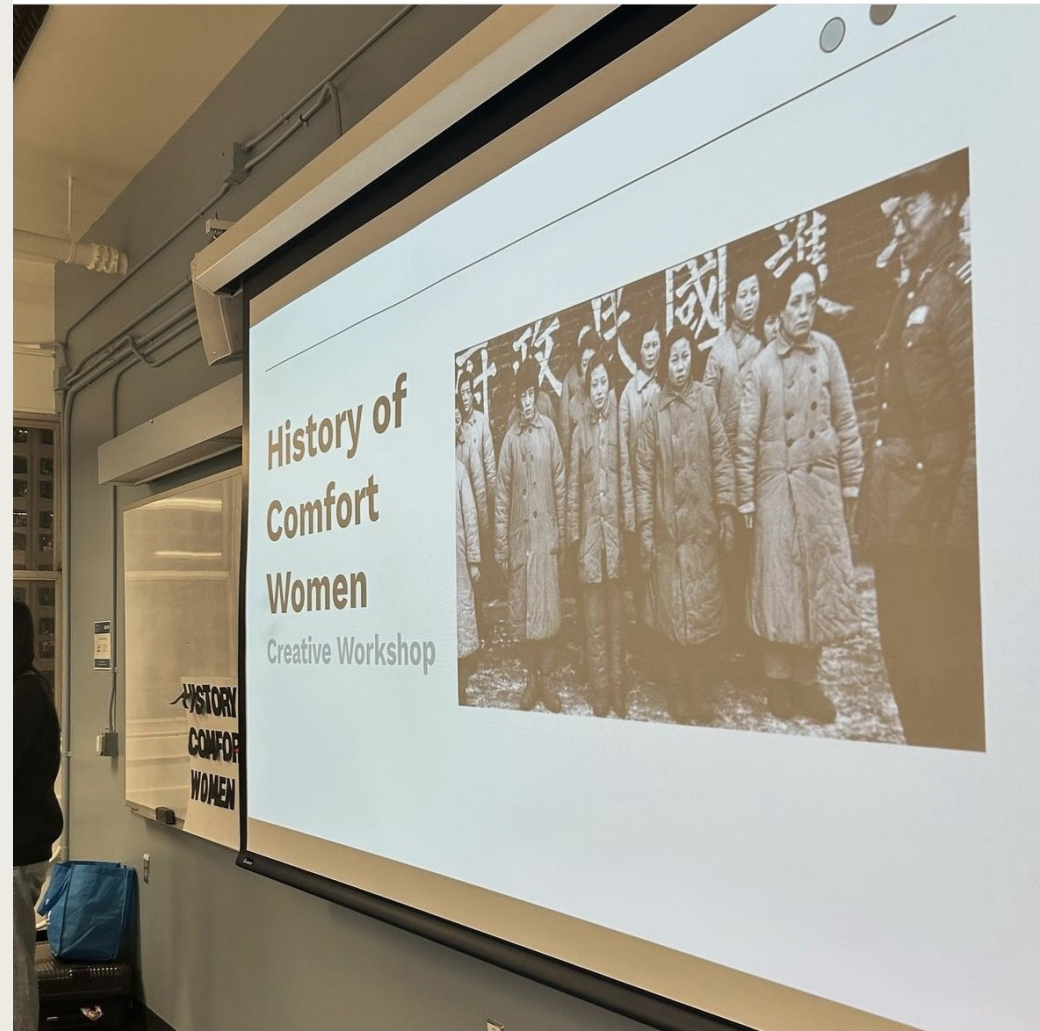
Imus4cwa Why these workshops matter! Message for any questions 🧡

March 11

Workshops to Promote Understanding of History— of “Comfort Women” and Reflect Critically and Creatively



Hosting the Workshops



Impact of WWII (1939-1945)

- Late 19th century: Korea caught in colonial ambitions of China, Russia, and Japan; Western powers also involved.
- Japan modernizes its military, views Korea and Manchuria as expansion areas.
- Post-Sino-Japanese War (1895) and Russo-Japanese War (1905), Japan increases influence in Korea
 - Western powers largely uninvolved.
- End of Japanese Annexation ended with WWII → Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki


Japanese Occupation/Annexation

- Korea became a part of the Japanese empire in 1910, losing its sovereignty. This was formalized through the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty, which was signed under duress and is considered illegal by many historians.
- Japan waged an all-out war on Korean culture for control
- Korean culture suppressed, historical documents destroyed, language and land rights eroded, forced assimilation.
 - Forced to speak/learn Japanese
 - Tore down historic buildings → Gyeongbokgung, royal palace built by Joseon dynasty

Japanese Occupation/Annexation


- March 1st Movement - In 1919, a significant nationwide uprising known as the March 1st Movement occurred, demonstrating against Japanese rule. It was brutally suppressed, but it also led to some reforms.
- Koreans faced increased exploitation through forced labor, conscription into the Japanese military, and mobilization of women as "comfort women" for the Japanese military.
- The Japanese occupation authorities redirected Korea's economic output to support Japan's war efforts, leading to significant hardships for the Korean population. Agricultural produce and raw materials were exported to Japan, leading to food shortages and suffering in Korea.
- Japan's defeat in WWII directly led to the end of the 35-year occupation of Korea. With Japan's surrender in August 1945, Korea was liberated, marking the end of Japanese colonial rule.

“Comfort Women”

- Comfort = Japanese euphemism "ianfu" - women forced into sexual slavery
 - 1932 and lasting until 1945, the Japanese government's notorious systematized sex trafficking scheme involved women, girls and boys from throughout the Japanese empire.
 - Scholars believe the system ensnared 200,000 victims, although estimates vary from 20,000 to nearly 500,000.
 - 20,000 and 410,000 women had been enslaved in at least 125 brothels. In 1993, the UN's Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights estimated that at the end of World War II, 90 percent of the “comfort women” had died.
- 



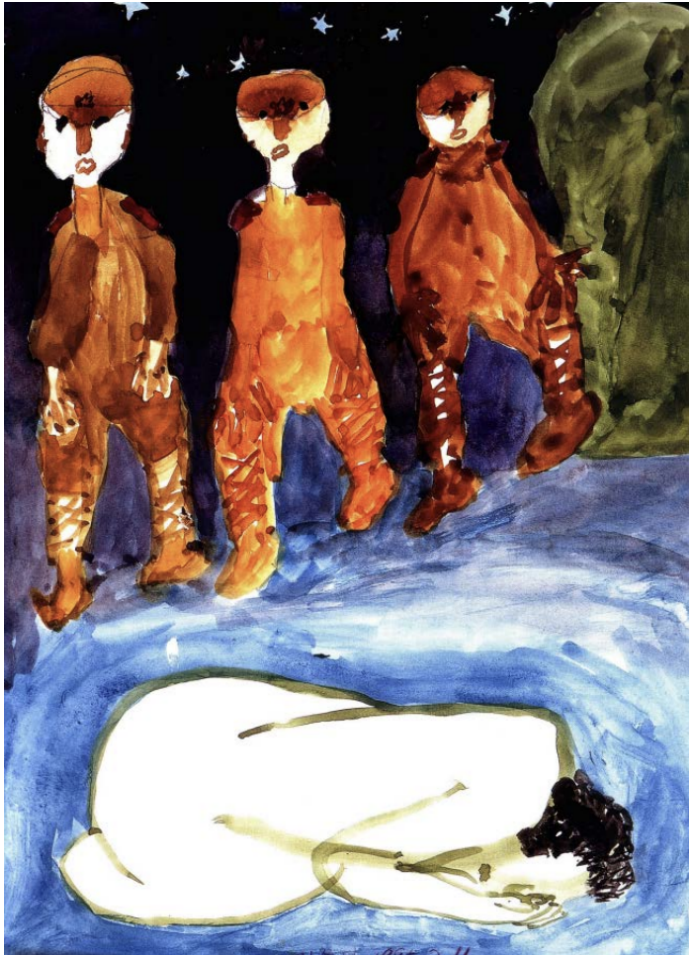
“Comfort Women”

- Rape of Nanking: On December 13, 1937, Japanese forces launched a six-week massacre in Nanking, China, raping 20,000 to 80,000 women.
 - "Recruitment" for brothels involved kidnapping or coercing women, who were taken from streets in Japanese-occupied areas under false pretenses of employment or sold by their parents as indentured servants.
 - In the brothels, women were subjected to sexual slavery in harsh conditions. Post-WWII, U.S. authorities let "comfort stations" run until 1946, when Douglas MacArthur closed them, affecting thousands of women.
- 

Lee Yong-Soo

- Survivors of sexual slavery faced social ostracism, with many succumbing to sexually transmitted infections, complications from abuse, or choosing suicide.
- Yong Soo Lee, a 90-year-old survivor, seeks an apology from Japan, telling the Washington Post in 2015, “I never wanted to comfort those men... I can't forgive what happened to me.”





Soon-Duk Kim, "In That Place, at That Moment in Time" (1995)

Art by
Comfort
Women



"Punish the Responsible" by former 'comfort woman'
Kang Duk-gyeong



Duk-Kyoung Kang, "Nightmare", Acrylic on Paper, 1995

1941, That Autumn

by Tanya Ko Hong

That autumn night, Japanese
soldiers wielding swords
dragged me away
while I was gathering pine needles

they fell from my basket
filling the air with the scent of their white blood.

When you scream in your dream
there's no sound.

Grandma's making Song Pyunon the maru,
asking mom, *Is water boiling?*
Will she bring pine needles before my eye balls fall out?

I feel pain
there—

They put a long stick between my legs—
Open up, open, Baka Chosengjing!
they rage, spraying
their sperm
the smell of
burning dog
burning life

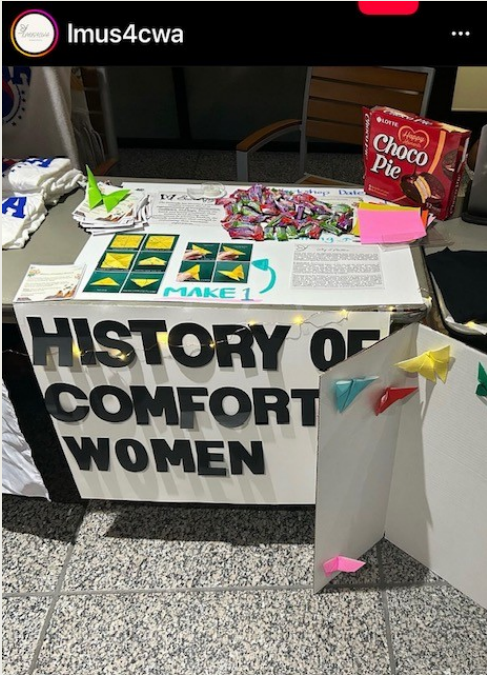
panting
grunting on top of me—
Under my blood I am dying





Workshops on Peer Education History of Comfort Women and Art

Promoting the History of “Comfort Women” at Cultural Affinity Groups on Campus



Works Produced by Students Upon Reflecting on the History and Injustices of the “Comfort Women” Issue



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Imus4cwa Like butterflies emerging from shadows into light, we honor the resilience and transformation of comfort women, symbols of strength and renewal against the darkest of times🦋

