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Panel 2.1: Empowering Women, Strategies for the Home, Workplace and Community

Korean New Women and a Doll's House in the 1920s

As #Me-Too movement is sweeping across Korean society recently, the Korean New Women in the 1920's are being revisited from a renewed feminist perspective.

This article aims to re-examine the Korean New Women who have been misunderstood by the public only as "immoral women subjected to Western influences" and re-evaluate their achievements from an intercultural point of view. It specifically focuses on Na Hye-seok's feminism and her praxis. Na was the first modern Korean woman painter and a writer who was influenced by Western and Japanese feminists such as Hiratsuka Raicho and Ellen Key, as well as Ibsen's play *A Doll's House*.

Na Hye-seok and the Korean New Women made strenuous efforts to awaken the people to help modernize the nation. But their feminist practices were at odds with the Korean Confucian morality of the times. Their lives ended tragically. Their feminist legacy, however, lives on today.