

February 15th, 2020

Seoul National University College of Medicine  
Alumni Association of North America, Inc.  
P. O. Box 631, Port Washington, NY 11050

Dear SNUCMAA of NA Scholarship Committee,

Hello, my name is Chae Yeon Park, and I am one of the 2019 SNUCMAA Scholarship recipients. I am writing to you to express my deep gratitude for this honorable scholarship, and to update you on my academic journey.

As a current third-year Master of Architecture student at Cornell University, I am inching closer to my final semester, and have been busy preparing for what I hope will be a meaningful thesis project. During my time at this school, I have had the great fortune in meeting colleagues and mentors who challenged me to seek opportunities to advance conversations around society, agency and spatial thinking.

The SNUCMAA Scholarship has enabled me to ask important questions and seek out opportunities to enliven my education. This past semester, I utilized the scholarship fund to support a mandatory studio trip to Mexico City. There, I encountered a city with a rich cultural heritage grappling with radical environmental challenges. One of the most memorable moments of the trip was meeting architect Rozana Montiel, founder and director of the Mexico-based architectural firm Estudio de Arquitectura. Montiel situates her practice at the boundary of social justice and design excellence. Her projects include social housing and other public works that target neighborhood improvements and the city by extension. Architects have a responsibility that extends beyond the building itself. The health and safety of inhabitants, environmental impact, energy performance, as well as the broader economic and political underpinnings that stem from demolition and construction all fall under the architect's consideration. I believe in architecture's potential for positive impact, and I envision my own work to be one of empowerment.

I also recognize that as a Korean-American student at Cornell, I have a unique opportunity to use my voice to raise awareness around the absent narratives pertaining to modern Korean history. I am currently working on a few projects including a research paper disputing the theory of *colonial modernization* by exposing the inextricable tie between Korean modernity and colonial suffering, as well as the close examination of the Demilitarized Zone as an architectural site. The generous scholarship from the Seoul National University College of Medicine of North America has allowed me to do this and much more, and I want to thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Chae Yeon Park



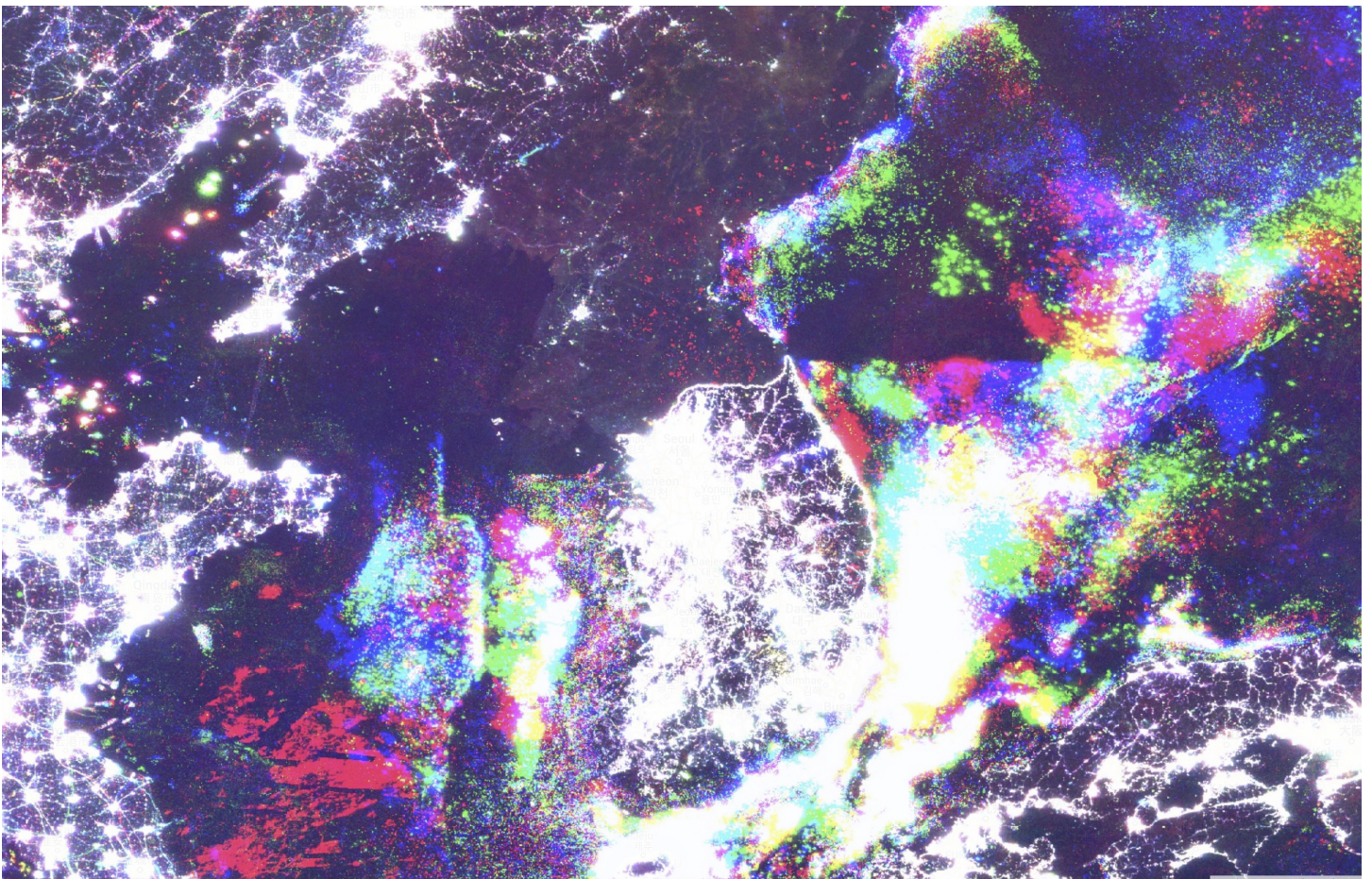
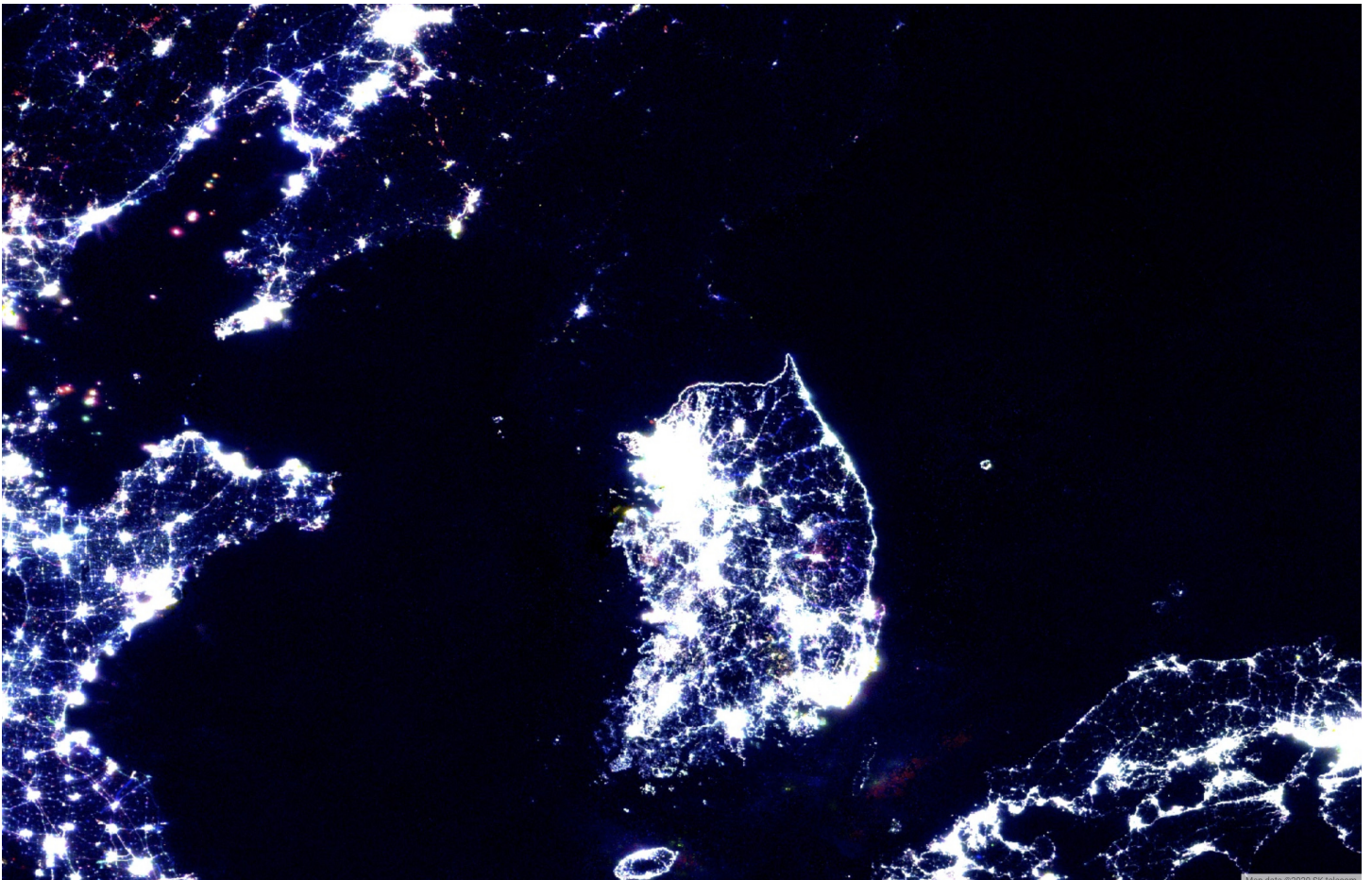
Visiting Rozana Montiel's studio in Mexico City



Visiting Biblioteca Vasconcelos in Mexico City



Drawing tracing the 3.1 Independence March of 1919 in colonized Keijo and contemporary Seoul



Using Google Earth Code to study the interannual night light on the Korean peninsula