Abstract

A Economic Validity Study on the Introduction of the Resale Royalty Right

- Focused on Redistributive Effect of the Resale Royalty Right -

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The resale royalty right is a right granted to artists or their heirs to receive a fee on the resale of their works of art. In some jurisdictions which implement the resale royalty right artists have the right to control or profit from subsequent sales. In Korea, the question on whether to introduce the resale royalty right was one of hot issues in Korea-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement(FTA) in 2007. Although it was not included in the FTA agenda, Korea and European Union agreed to reconsider the introduction of the resale royalty right after two years of FTA during the negotiation. However, there is no discussion about the resale royalty right as of 2014.

This paper analyzes the economic validity of the resale royalty right on the profit of the artist. In order to do this, we established two scenarios which are one million won and four million won respectively based on lowest seller/buyer price criteria. Two scenarios is same below: Single payments cannot exceed 175 million won(€12,500) and royalties are set at the EU's rates. The Resale Royalty Right applies to original artworks by living artists and for a period of 70 years after an artist's death. Our main results are as follows. Based on auction house data, we estimate that about 1.1 billion won or 1.3 billion won of royalty right is being collected annually, of which around 65% accrues to top 50 artists.

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Keywords

Resale royalty right, Auction house, Korea-EU FTA, Economic validity, Market diversion effect

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