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NEWS BRIEFING

Tokyo governor wins 2nd term

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike declared victory in Sunday's vote to elect the leader of one of the world's most populous cities and immediately vowed to step up the fight against a recent coronavirus resurgence. **(Page 2)**

Renewed peace push

With a top US envoy for North Korea due in Seoul this week, South Korea is making a renewed push to restart the peninsular peace process, but prospects are dim with an apparently unwilling North Korea, experts said Monday. **(Page 4)**

LG's 'carbon-neutral' pledge

LG Chem will neutralize its net carbon emissions increase to make it zero by 2050, according to its "Carbon-neutral Growth 2050" initiative unveiled Monday. **(Page 5)**



Economic recovery on hold

The world economy is entering the second half of 2020 still deeply weighed down by the coronavirus pandemic with a full recovery now ruled-out for this year and even a 2021 comeback dependent on a lot going right. **(Page 6)**

Open banking service

The number of open banking service subscriptions in Korea has surpassed 20 million, more than 70 percent of the nation's economically active population, reflecting rapid expansion across the finance sector. **(Page 7)**

Hands-free warehousing

Getting products from one place to another with as little human contact as possible is becoming an imperative for businesses as retailers, warehouses and transport providers adapt to the coronavirus pandemic, seeking to minimize the risk of infections to their employees and customers. **(Page 8)**

Taj Mahal remains shut

India's top tourist attraction the Taj Mahal will remain shut, officials said Sunday, as the vast nation registered a record daily number of coronavirus cases and opened a sprawling treatment center in the capital to fight the pandemic. **(Page 10)**



Ennio Morricone dies

Ennio Morricone, whose scores for movies such as "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," "The Mission" and "Cinema Paradiso" made him one of the world's most famous and prolific screen composers, has died, ANSA news agency said Monday. He was 91. **(Page 13)**

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COACH IN ABUSE SCANDAL

Head coach Kim Gyu-bong of the triathlon team at Gyeongju City Hall testifies at a plenary session of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee held at the National Assembly in Seoul on Monday. (Related content on Page 3) Yonhap

Coronavirus spreading in Korea has its origin in Europe, US: KCDC

By Ock Hyun-ju

The novel coronavirus spreading in South Korea now has its origin in Europe and the US, health authorities said Monday, and it is known to be six times as infectious as the original strain that emerged in China.

The variant belongs to the GH clade, which has largely been circulated in Europe and the US, according to an analysis by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on 526 genome samples diagnosed with the COVID-19.

This implies the virus could have arrived here via someone who came from those regions in March and April before Korea tightened virus controls on overseas arrivals, mandating a two-week quarantine for all.

"As we interpret it, the virus belonging to the GH clade is circulating recently because we had many arrivals from Europe and the US in March and April, and the virus imported then is now driving community trans-

missions," Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Jeong Eun-kyeong, at a briefing Monday.

The variant of the GH group was first found in cases in early April registered in North Gyeongsang Province, cases traced to bars and clubs in Itaewon, Seoul's party district, in early May as well as cases linked to a Buddhist temple in Gwangju, most recently, according to Jeong.

The variants found in the genome samples in February and March, when the country saw hundreds of cases linked to a church in Daegu and hospital in neighboring North Gyeongsang Province at the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak here, belonged to the S clade and V clade. The virus in the S and V clades were prevalent in China, where the coronavirus is believed to have originated from, and other parts of Asia.

The COVID-19 virus is largely classified as S, V, L, G, GH, GR clades, according to WHO-oper-

ated GISAID, an international resource for sharing genome sequences.

Among the 526 samples analyzed, 333 samples, or 63.3 percent, belonged to the GH clade, followed by 127 samples classified as the V clade and 33 as the S clade and 19 as the GR clade and 10 as the G clade and 4 as others, according to the KCDC.

The G vibrant, which is dominating COVID-19 cases globally, is three to six times more capable of infecting human cells, according to a study published Thursday in the scientific journal Cell.

Touching on another study result on the possibility of airborne spread of the COVID-19, Jeong said more research is necessary but key measures to fight the virus stays the same regardless of how the virus spreads, calling on the public to stick to the basic rules such as avoiding enclosed, populated environments, wearing masks and washing hands.

In an open letter to be published this week, some 239

scientists from 32 countries suggests that aerosol transmission of the COVID-19 could be more important than the WHO has acknowledged, called on governments around the globe to take control measures.

On Monday, Korea reported 48 more COVID-19 cases as the country continues to see small-scale outbreaks, infections coming from overseas as well as an increasing number of cases with unidentified routes of transmission.

Half of the new cases, 24, were locally transmitted and the other half were imported. Of the locally transmitted cases, seven were registered in Gwangju in connection with a previously identified Buddhist temple cluster. Five cases were reported in Gyeonggi Province, five in Incheon, two each in South Jeolla Province, Daejeon and Seoul, according to the KCDC.

Seven more people tested positive for the coronavirus in connection with the temple in **Continued on Page 2**

At age of 90, artist pioneers new phase of life

Godfather of Korean contemporary art says he has finally begun to enjoy painting

The following is last part of a series that explores museums dedicated to the well-known Korean contemporary artists whose names they bear. — Ed.

By Park Yuna

A white porcelain moon jar, which resembles a full moon with its bluish hue, sits alone at the entrance hall at the Gizi Art Base in western Seoul, a place dedicated to contemporary art master Park Seo-bo.

"I do love the Korean moon jars. The jars are created through a repetitive movement on a pottery wheel, and the clay is the only ingredient. The whole process comes very naturally," Park told The Ko-



Park Seo-bo
Park Hyun-koo/
The Korea Herald

MUSEUM OF ONE'S OWN (Last)

rea Herald during an interview on June 16 at the Gizi Art Base.

Park turned 90 this year. He moved to the newly built art base two years ago. The three-story building functions as a studio, gallery and a home for his family. On the first floor, some works of his color Ecriture series are displayed.

"I do not paint this style (color Ecriture) anymore, since 2018," Park said slowly walking through the hallway of the paintings, relying on a cane. Recently, Park has moved on to a new Ecriture series, which combine pastel colors and his early pencil Ecriture style.

His left hand slightly trembles when he gets tired.

"But my right hand is fine so painting is not a problem. I think God has helped me," Park said.

Park, who still paints six to eight hours a day if his condition allows, is often called as the "untiring endeavor" for his dedication to art. He hopes he could paint until he turns 100, if possible.

"I used to paint on the floor. But now I cannot do that anymore, because I would slump over. I use an easel instead," he said. "I am not sure how many paintings (his new Ecriture series) I will be able to work on. It takes a few months to finish a single piece. I will not be selling them to anyone."

Park began the Ecriture series 53 years ago, establishing his own philosophy of painting. The series was about self-discipline. To Park, painting is a form of meditation and an act of emptying oneself.

He ceaselessly worked on the Ecriture series which started with pencil works which involved repeatedly drawing lines with a pencil on a canvas covered with white oil paint. Afterward, the zigzag Ecriture in the 1980s and the color Ecriture in the 2000s followed with variations.

Park, however, revealed he finally began to enjoy painting at the age of 90. His new Ecriture series **Continued on Page 16**

Child abuse site operator's US extradition denied

By Ko Jun-tae

A South Korean national who operated the world's largest child pornography website will not be sent to the US to face trial there, a local court ruled Monday, rejecting a US request for his extradition.

The Seoul High Court, at its third and final hearing on the high-profile case, said that there are justifiable reasons not to extradite Son Jong-woo, the mastermind behind the US-based child porn website Welcome to Video. It is in the national interest to keep Son in Korea and further the ongoing probe into the makings of child and adolescent pornography, it added.

"It is important to consider that local investigative efforts could face road blocks if Son is extradited to the United States," the court said in its decision. "It is desirable for South Korea to exercise its jurisdiction over his case."

Following the decision, Son was set free from a detention center.

The 24-year-old has been wanted by US authorities since a US federal grand jury indicted him in 2018 on nine charges,



Son Jong-woo Yonhap

including producing, advertising and distributing child pornography, as well as conspiracy and money laundering.

According to the US Justice Department, Son's porn site contained more than 250,000 videos, or around 8 terabytes of child pornography, making it "the largest child sexual exploitation market by volume of content."

Son was arrested in Korea in March 2018 following a joint investigation among Korean, US and British authorities. The same year, he was sentenced by a local court to 18 months in prison for producing and circulating images of child sexual abuse.

The child porn site operator has remained in detention since completing his prison sentence on April 27, as the extradition process had been opened upon the US Justice Department's request last year.

Son's case came to public attention when his father in May filed a public petition on the website of the presidential office asking not to extradite Son to the US, where he would face much stronger punishment. It also shed light on how lenient South Korea is on sex crimes involving minors.

In an apparent bid to block Son's extradition and the possibility of facing harsher punishment in the US, the father filed a complaint against Son with the prosecution for violation of the law on concealing criminal proceedings. It is one of the nine charges Son is sought after by the US and one that he did not face in his trial here.

Son is suspected of collecting 400 million won (\$335,000) in virtual currency for providing videos of child sexual exploitation to some 4,000 people on the dark web over a period of two years and eight months starting in July 2015.

The investigation into the money laundering charge will kick off soon, which could lead to additional prison time. **(ko.juntae@heraldcorp.com)**

At age of 90, artist pioneers new phase of life

From Page 1

remind one of those of his early pencil Ecriture, but he painted the background with pastel colors that he once had no interest in. If seen from a distance, some of the series are reminiscent of clouds peacefully floating in the sky.

"Now I do not feel like fighting against the world, nor the need to struggle for myself. ... I am enjoying the last moments of my life in a fine pastel tone," Park wrote on his Instagram account. "I am having the time of my life."

Park is one of a few Korean artists represented by two major internationally acclaimed galleries, White Cube and Galerie Perrotin based in UK and France, respectively. A retrospective exhibition on Park was scheduled to be held in April at White Cube Bermondsey but was pushed back to March 23 next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Founder of dansaekhwa

Park led the dansaekhwa movement, the name of which translates to pursuit of "monochrome painting." The art genre was evolved by a loose group of artists in the late 1960s and the 1970s who pursued self-discipline through artworks.

When it comes to dansaekhwa paintings, Park stresses three notions are crucial: purposeless action, a repetition exercise in meditation, and meditation evolved into material properties.

Birth of dansaekhwa stems back to when Park resigned his post as a full-time instructor at Hongik University in 1966. At the prestigious art university, he tried to reform the curriculum but was stigmatized as a rebellious figure.

"After quitting the job, I was sort of lost. I mostly stayed at home," Park said. "Then I constantly asked myself 'who am I?' I tried to overcome the Western painting styles, but it seemed to be impossible," Park said.

In fact, Park was the first Korean artist who applied Art Informel — abstract paintings derived from Europe out of skepticism in the mid-1900s — to his work. Park's Informel painting "Painting No. 1" in his late 20s, is considered the first Informel art in Korea.

While constantly questioning the identity of his art, the old memories of when he visited Sudeoksa, a temple in Yesan, South Chungcheong Province, came across his mind. At the temple, he met a Buddhist nun who changed his life.

"I just graduated from college and asked her for tips on becoming a good artist. She suggested reciting Buddhist scriptures, which I did not want to do because I was not a Buddhist," Park said. "Then she suggested I repeat my name constantly all day long."

Park laughed at her at first. Then he asked whether she had met the Buddha by doing such discipline. Her answer struck him. "She said 'Yes, I have met the Buddha. The Buddha was actually myself,'" Park recalled how thrilled he was with the answer.

Park chewed on the conversation with the Buddhist nun and realized he had to empty himself. Park, however, did not know where to start. There wasn't any art protocol to empty oneself.

And it was his 3-year-old son who gave him a clue. One day, his son was practicing writing on squared paper. As he kept failing to fit each letter into the square, he started to scribble angrily with a pencil as if he was giving up.

"I realized such resignation was what I needed," Park said. "So I drew a grid on a canvas and repeated drawing lines with a pencil out of resignation."

He secretly practiced his pencil Ecriture series for five years, so that the new painting style becomes his own thing completely.

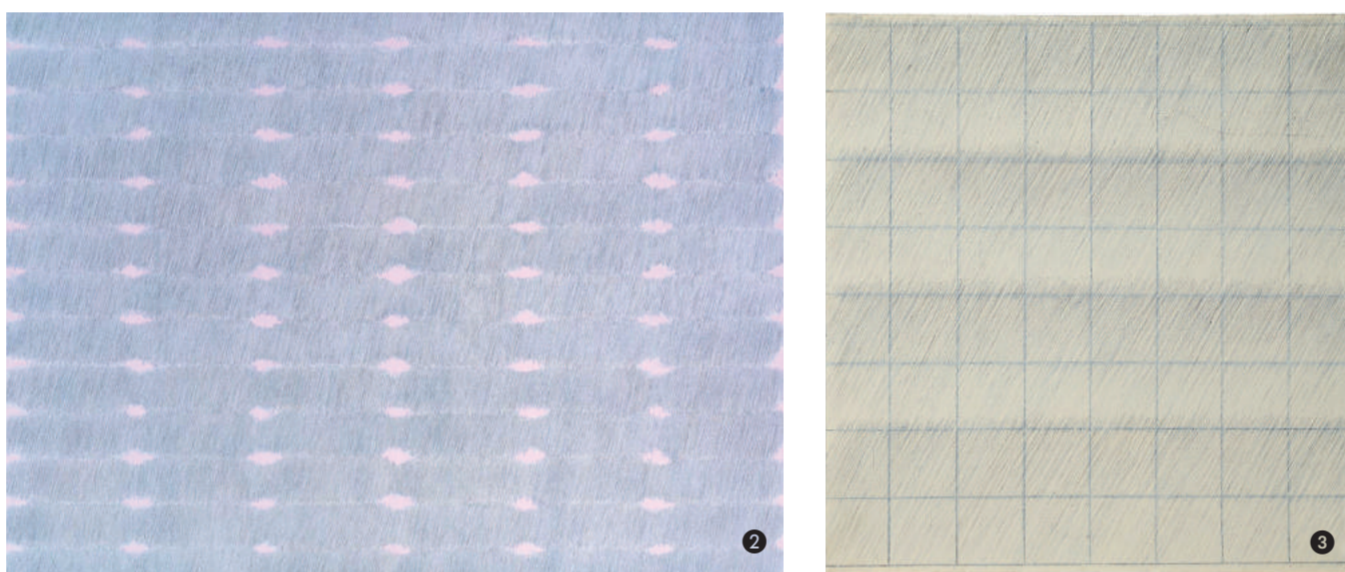
"You have to endure. If you try something new, it needs time to mature until it becomes a part of yourself," Park said. "It is a pity that there are many artists who easily create art after catching a shot glimpse of someone else's works and unveil them to the public too quickly."

"I say 'If you do not change, you will perish, but so will those who do,' which means you have to change well. You will have to change over time, and it needs much endurance and maturity," Park said.

He delved into the Ecriture series, sleeping four hours a day for five years, hiding it from others. One day, Lee Ufan, a close of friend of Park based in Japan, came across the paintings while Park left his studio's door open.

"Lee was really surprised to see my new paintings. He suggested I put up an exhibition the following year in Japan, which turned out to be successful," Park recalled. Park's early pencil Ecriture works were shown to the public in 1973. Park came back to the university in 1970 hired as a professor.

Park's Ecriture series is a strong representation of the Korean monochrome painting movement. Park, however, does not agree with the name. In fact, Park considers his paint-



① Some of Park's color Ecriture series are displayed at the gallery in the Gizi Art Base.

Park Hyun-koo/The Korea Herald

② "Ecriture No. 190227" by Park Seo-bo; one of the artist's recent Ecriture paintings

Courtesy of the artist

③ "Ecriture No. 6-67" by Park Seo-bo; one of his early pencil Ecriture series

Courtesy of the artist

④ Gizi Art Base in Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, functions as Park's home studio and gallery.

Park Hyun-koo/The Korea Herald

ings have nothing to do with monochrome paintings, which stemmed from an idea as opposed to polychrome paintings.

"Dansaekhwa is totally different from monochrome paintings or minimalism. Dansaekhwa is about emptying and purifying oneself," Park said. "In Western paintings, painters mostly throw their ideas on a canvas. Dansaekhwa is the opposite; it does not aim to reveal one's ideas."

The name of dansaekhwa stuck after the Gwangju Biennale in 2000 as the art critic Yon Jin-sup applied the term to artists of the painting style. The term spread fast globally.

"Now the term dansaekhwa is fixed, so I cannot do anything about it now," Park said.

When asked for a better name than dansaekhwa, it took a few minutes for him to answer: "Well, perhaps the phrase of 'working with nature' may be the best expression."

The title "Working with Nature: Traditional Thought in Contemporary Art in Korea" was the title of an exhibition of six contemporary dansaekhwa artists in 1992 at Tate Liverpool in the UK.

In the 2000s, Park began to apply colors, which he once did not enjoy, and used hanji, Korean traditional mulberry paper known for its high absorptivity, to his late Ecriture series.

"In 2000, I was astonished by the colors of maple trees in Japan. That was when I decided to apply colors of the nature to my Ecriture works aiming to heal people full of stress. I always learn from the nature."

Finding originality from tradition

Park considers Korea's unique identity comes from its view toward the nature.

The ancestors regarded the nature as a subject to obey rather than to conquer. The perspective lives on until today, and it is artists' capacity to embrace the philosophy for their art, representing the trend of the times at the same time.

"Look at the Korean moon jar. A potter could have made it fairly white, but it is not. Instead, there is a blue hue to make it 'whitish.' Koreans respected the nature and pursued neutrality," he said.

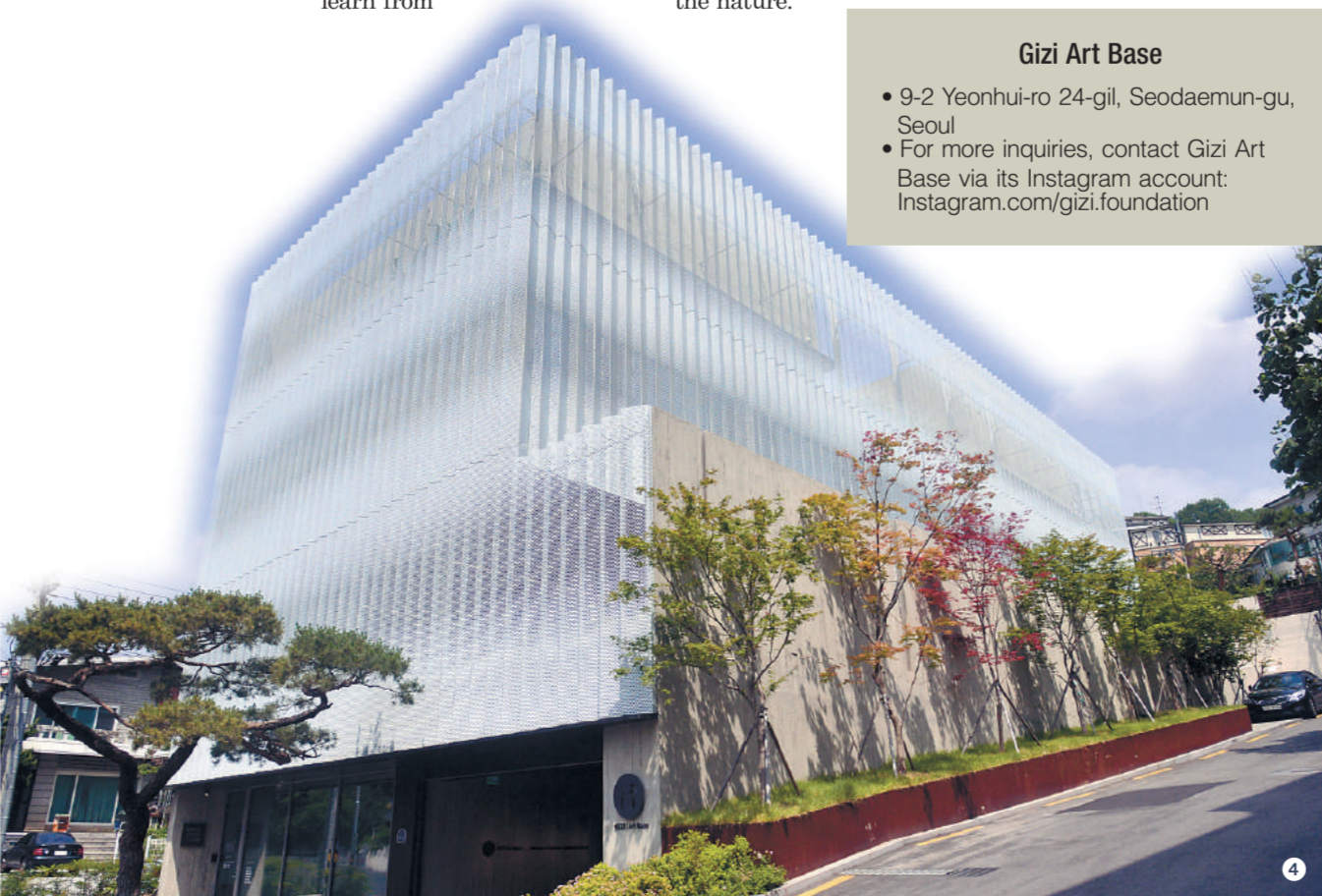
Park said ways in which Koreans respected nature and were against humans' control are found in many traditional activities.

"Think of the gayageum (a traditional string instrument). It echoes when you take your hands off the instrument. For seungmu (Korean religious dance), the white wide long-sleeved clothes continue to wave even if you stop moving," Park said. "Everything has its own beginning when left free from human's control."

When asked what a good painting is, he said a good painting makes people feel comfortable, touches their heart and is original — something that others cannot think of.

"I always strived to pursue art that others did not. It felt like walking on a 'thorny path' but still, I really did my best for my art. Looking back at the path, I now realize that I was happy," Park said.

(yunapark@heraldcorp.com)



Gizi Art Base

- 9-2 Yeonhui-ro 24-gil, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul
- For more inquiries, contact Gizi Art Base via its Instagram account: Instagram.com/gizi.foundation

Louvre museum reopens after 16-week virus shutdown

PARIS (AFP) — The Louvre, the world's most visited museum, reopened after its coronavirus closure Monday, but with nearly a third of its galleries still shut.

The vast former palace of France's kings has lost more than 40 million euros (\$45 million) in ticket sales during the nearly four-month lockdown, and director Jean-Luc Martinez admitted it could have a few more lean years ahead as the world adapts to the virus.

Although most of the museum's most popular draws, like the "Mona Lisa" and its vast antiquities collection, will be accessible, other galleries where social distancing is more difficult will remain closed.

Nor will there be any crowding in front of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece for a selfie, with visitors warned they will have to stick to standing on well-distanced spots marked on the floor.

To avoid bottlenecks, arrows will guide visitors through the labyrinth of galleries, with doubling back banned, the museum said.

Some 70 percent of the Louvre's 9.6 million visitors last year were from overseas, and with tourism at a standstill, Martinez told Agence France-Presse that numbers could drop sharply.

"We are losing 80 percent of our public," he said.

"We are going to be at best 20 to 30 percent down on last summer — between 4,000 and 10,000 visitors a day," he estimated.

The museum hopes to attract more French visitors to fill the gap as it embarks on a campaign to shake off its elitist image before the Paris Olympics in four years' time.

Martinez, who comes from a working-class background, said he wanted to build on the outreach success of the Louvre's outpost museum in Lens, a poor former mining town in northern France.

He said sometimes the Louvre can "intimide" certain demographics and the museum needs to reassure people that its collections are also for them with improved presentation, labeling and curation.



This file photo shows the pyramid of the Louvre museum in Paris. AP-Yonhap

First-ever online Paris fashion week clicks off

PARIS (AFP) — The first-ever online Paris fashion week clicked off Monday with the world of glitzy runway shows thrown into an existential crisis by the coronavirus.

Paris haute couture and men's fashion weeks have been rolled into one, with labels making films to showcase their clothes instead of staging sometimes extravagant shows.

The virus has not just made the traditional catwalk format — where a few hundred globe-trotters are crammed into an overlit, overheated room and pummeled with thumping music — temporarily untenable on health grounds.

Some even say that seasons — the frame on which the whole fashion calendar has been anchored — should be swept away altogether.

Gucci's flamboyant creator Alessandro Michele has slashed his shows from five to two a year while Saint Laurent is pulling out of Paris women's fashion week later this year. Its designer Anthony Vaccarello wants to set his own rhythm, a hitherto taboo idea that has become a rallying cry for many other creators.

There is so much rebellion in the air that the venerable French brand Hermes jumped the gun on the men's shows — which do not start until Thursday — by releasing its film Sunday.

In a typically classy offering shot by French theater director Cyril Teste, the crew and technicians took starring roles along with the models.

Designer Veronique Nichanian is seen adjusting a striped sky blue jacket, and asking her model to put his hand in his pocket.

Dior has called in the heavy artillery for its haute couture show, which is likely to be Monday's highlight.

Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri — the first woman to lead the iconic label — told Agence France-Presse that these were not normal times.

"Creating this collection was very complex. From the start, it was clear that a real show would not happen. So we had to come up with something really dense and creative," she said.

Correction

On page 16 in the Monday edition, the headline spelling should have been written "repeated." We regret the mistake. — Ed.