

# SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



## Vase model "Birth of Life II"

Created by Hyeokjin Jung  
Korea, 2022

Aluminum, ottchil lacquer, tofu composite (hybrid material)

### Measurements

38 × 45 × 27h cm  
15 × 17,7 × 10,6h in

### Details

Signed by the artist

### Edition

Unique piece

## About

Vase Model "Birth of Life II" expands on the themes introduced in Birth of Life I, presenting a form that is more asymmetrical and dynamic, as if caught in a moment of organic mutation. The subtly shifting proportions and the horizontal tension of the silhouette suggest a body in the process of growth—no longer fully contained, but not yet stabilized—evoking the fragile equilibrium of early life.

The interplay of aluminum, ottchil lacquer, and the tofu-based organic composite reinforces this sense of becoming. The rigid industrial structure provides a skeletal framework, while the lacquered surface operates as a living skin, enclosing the vulnerable organic core. Through this layered materiality, Jung articulates birth not as a single event, but as an unfolding process in which matter, form, and time are inseparably intertwined.

## Biography

**Hyeokjin Jung** is a contemporary Korean artist working at the intersection of sculpture, craft, and material innovation. Living and working in Seoul, Korea, he is known for blending traditional material processes with experimental composites to investigate temporal and existential themes in object making. His practice is characterized by an openness to hybrid materials—combining inherited artisan know-how with contemporary fabrication and sustainable strategies.

Jung's works have been exhibited in gallery shows and contemporary design venues across Asia and internationally, where his pieces are recognized for their thoughtful negotiation of material histories and conceptual depth. He employs techniques such as ottchil lacquer application—a laborious hand process rooted in East Asian craft lineage—alongside industrial metallurgy and innovative plant-based composites (such as tofu-derived media) to explore tensions between endurance and transience.

Jung articulates a philosophy in which objects embody lived experience and social resonance rather than merely utility or decoration. For him, materials carry cultural memory: lacquer evokes ritual and preservation, metal connotes strength and industrial modernity, while organic composites gesture toward impermanence and ecological vulnerability.