

SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



Vase model "Birth of Life I"

Created by Hyeokjin Jung
Korea, 2022

Aluminum, ottchil lacquer, tofu composite (hybrid material)

Measurements

39,5 × 39,5 × 30h cm
15,6 × 15,6 × 11,8h in

Details

Signed by the artist

Edition

Unique piece

About

Vase Model "Birth of Life I" marks a new stage in Hyeokjin Jung's investigation of growth and material transformation, shifting the focus from expansion to emergence. The form rises from a compact base into a softly swelling volume, suggesting the moment in which life begins to separate itself from its origin and acquire autonomous presence. The vase-like silhouette evokes both a biological vessel and a gestational body, reinforcing the theme of birth as a process of containment and release.

As in Jung's earlier works, the dialogue between industrial aluminum, traditional ottchil lacquer, and the tofu-based organic composite generates a surface that is at once refined and unstable. The lacquered skin acts as a protective membrane, sealing the fragile organic matter within, while the composite material introduces the idea of vulnerability and transience. Through this tension, Jung frames life not as a fixed state, but as a continual negotiation between formation and decay, preservation and change.

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.