

SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



Vase model "Birth of Life III"

Created by Hyeokjin Jung
Korea, 2023

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 III" marks a moment of consolidation within Jung's Birth of Life series. The form appears fuller and more volumetric, as if the generative forces introduced in the earlier works have begun to stabilize into a coherent body. Its rounded, swelling contours evoke an organism that has passed the threshold of emergence and is now asserting its physical presence in space.

The hybrid structure—combining industrial aluminum, traditional ottchil lacquer, and a tofu-based organic composite—creates a layered metaphor of life and time. Beneath the glossy, protective skin of lacquer lies a perishable core, making the vessel both a container and a metaphor for embodied existence. Jung uses this material tension to reflect on life as something simultaneously fragile and resilient, held together through continuous transformation.

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.