

# SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



## Vase model "Seed of Life"

Created by Hyeokjin Jung  
Korea, 2025

Aluminum, ottchil lacquer, tofu composite (hybrid material)

### Measurements

49 × 49 × 46h cm  
19,3 × 19,3 × 18,1h in

### Details

Signed by the artist

### Edition

Unique piece

## About

Vase Model "Seed of Life" represents a conceptual and formal condensation of Jung's exploration of organic generation. Unlike the expansive, unfolding volumes of the Birth of Life series, this work is more compact and concentrated, evoking the idea of potentiality held within a single, contained form. The object reads as a vessel not only in a physical sense, but as a symbolic seed from which life, growth, and future forms might emerge.

The juxtaposition of aluminum, ottchil lacquer, and the tofu-based composite reinforces this idea of latent energy. The hardened exterior protects a vulnerable interior, mirroring the way a seed shelters the beginnings of life. In this way, Jung transforms material into metaphor, using the language of sculpture to reflect on cycles of birth, preservation, and regeneration.

## 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.