

SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



Vase Model Extension of Life I

Created by Hyeokjin Jung
Korea, 2021

Aluminum, ottchil lacquer, tofu composite (hybrid material)

Measurements

49,5 × 49,5 × 57h cm
19,5 × 19,5 × 22,4h in

Details

Signed by the artist

Edition

Unique Piece

About

Extension of Life I is a sculptural vase that synthesizes traditional East Asian lacquer techniques with contemporary material experimentation. The work unites ottchil, a traditional Korean/Japanese lacquer derived from lacquer tree resin, with aluminum and an experimental tofu-based composite, resulting in a hybrid surface that speaks to themes of material transformation, ephemerality, and renewal. The organic form alludes to both natural growth and pictorial abstraction, creating a contemplative object that bridges craft and conceptual practice.

Hyeokjin Jung's work often navigates the boundary between functional object and sculptural presence. By integrating materials such as metal, lacquer, and organic composites, he engages in a dialogue about material longevity, resilience, and life cycles—concepts implied by the title Extension of Life. The juxtaposition of industrial aluminum with hand-finished ottchil and ephemeral tofu-derived media evokes a tension between permanence and decay, tradition and innovation, echoing broader contemporary concerns with sustainability and the ontology of objects.

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.