

SIDE GALLERY

HYEOKJIN JUNG



Vase model "Breath of Life"

Manufactured by Hyeokjin Jung
Korea, 2025

Aluminum, ottchil lacquer, tofu composite (hybrid material)

Measurements

30 × 30 × 29h cm
11,8 × 11,8 × 11,4h in

Edition

Unique piece

About

Vase Model Breath of Life continues Hyeokjin Jung's exploration of growth, transformation, and the fragile conditions through which life takes form. The work approaches breath as a metaphor for vitality: an invisible force capable of animating matter and suggesting the transition between stillness and living presence.

Its compact, organic volume evokes a body shaped from within, as though the surface were responding to an internal pressure or undergoing a gradual process of expansion. Rather than presenting form as something fixed, Jung suggests an object in a state of becoming, where subtle tensions between interior and exterior give the work a distinctly biological character.

As in Jung's broader practice, the piece brings together industrial aluminum, traditional Korean ottchil lacquer, and a tofu-based organic composite. The contrast between these materials establishes a dialogue between permanence and impermanence, strength and vulnerability. While the aluminum provides a stable structural foundation, the lacquer creates a protective skin around the more fragile organic component.

Through this unusual combination of materials, Breath of Life reflects on life as a continuous process of formation, preservation, and change. Jung transforms the vessel into an almost bodily presence, using material experimentation to explore the delicate boundary between the organic and the artificial.

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.