

SIDE GALLERY

YEUNHEE RYU



Kettle model "Origin"

Manufactured by Yeunhee Ryu
South Korea, 2023
Silver, Pebble

Measurements

16 x 12 x 20h cm
6,3 x 4,7 x 7,9h in

Edition

Unique Piece

About

Kettle embodies Yeunhee Ryu's ongoing investigation into the relationship between traditional domestic objects and contemporary sculptural expression. Defined by a cylindrical body, a gently projecting spout, and an elegantly arched handle, the piece reinterprets the familiar form of a kettle through a restrained and poetic visual language.

The vessel's softly reflective silver surface reveals subtle variations in texture, emphasizing the presence of the artist's hand. Its carefully balanced proportions contrast the solidity of the cylindrical body with the delicacy of the curved handle, while the small, rounded element positioned at the centre of the lid introduces an intimate and tactile detail.

Drawing upon the cultural significance of everyday vessels, Ryu approaches the kettle as both a functional archetype and a sculptural object. Through a sensitive exploration of form, material, and craftsmanship, the work transforms an ordinary domestic reference into an expression of continuity, memory, and contemporary Korean design.

Biography

Yeunhee Ryu (South Korea) is a contemporary artist and designer whose practice bridges metalwork and cultural memory. Educated in design and craft disciplines, Ryu is particularly interested in reinterpreting traditional archetypes of Korean domestic life, such as the basket (baguni), through sculptural and material experimentation.

Working primarily with copper, she emphasizes the tactile and transformative qualities of metal: its capacity to be hammered, shaped, and aged, while recording traces of human gesture and time. Her works are both containers and sculptures, oscillating between functionality and symbolism.

Through the Baguni series, Ryu engages with themes of care, continuity, and community, situating her practice within a broader discourse on heritage, materiality, and contemporary craft. Her pieces invite reflection on how humble, everyday objects can embody cultural identity and collective memory, while also asserting new aesthetic possibilities in the field of design.