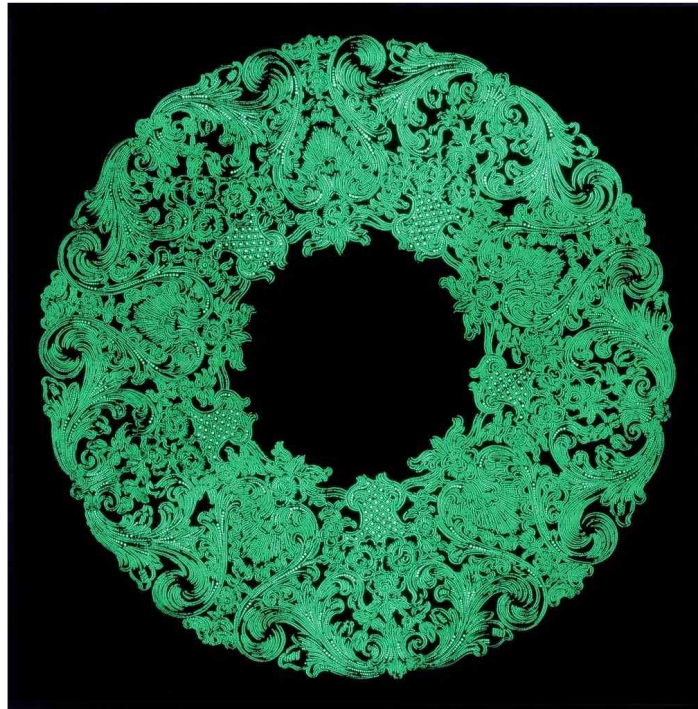


## Soowhan Choi



Surface, skin or shell always calls for close attention. Shortcomings need to be masked and shining surfaces need to be polished for brighter shine. That's what I learned and how I lived. However, people often neglect the fact that the shell is both a cover that hides the inside and a window that shows the inside. Shell is similar to a frame in that it reveals and hides at the same time. Depending on how something is placed in a frame, what is covered and what is concealed, its interpretation can vary. The ultimate question boils down to "what to expose", not the substance. A shell is both a wall and a window, and a frame that opens up opportunities for new interpretation. Soowhan Choi makes a hole in this shell. Choi's work resembles the duality of a shell in that it splits space into two but connects them at the same time. The shape reveals itself only when the inner space interacts with the outer space. The shape does not dominate the space with its physical weight. The light - the source of the shape - already existed in the inner space and its image and pattern is determined by the location and number of the small holes. The ray of light emitted through the countless fine holes interconnects to reveal a subtle yet sensual shape - a shape unpredictable in nature or in geometric decoration. An aura is created from an architectural structure in an exquisite combination of proportion and symmetry. Sensation and shape made possible only through the conscious fight against mannerism and the commitment for meticulously weaving a structure. The spectators encounter pure shape and pure sensation. The shell is given thickness. It is an intended thickness by which the amount of light emitted through the small holes bored vertically using an electric drill varies depending on the viewing angle. The dramatic effect created by the thickness of the

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shell gives sculptural values of wide ranging categories from material lump to non-material image of light. This is why the artist's work that started from a minimal square-shaped frame seems to overcome the physical limits of a frame. This is not possible when spectators simply observe and appreciate a decorative pattern with fine finish. This is the escape of a hidden space covered by a thick black shell. All Soowhan Choi did was to drill small holes.

## LEE & BAE

### Soowhan Choi (b.1972, Gyeongju, Korea)

#### ■ Educations

2006 MFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

1998 BFA Chugye University of the Arts, Seoul, Korea

#### ■ Selected Solo Exhibition

2022 CHOI SOOWHAN : A POSITIVE ABSENCE, Pontone Gallery, New York, USA

2021 Walk in Emptiness, BONGSAN Cultural Center, Daegu, Korea

2019 CHOI SOOWHAN : COMPLEX EMPOTINESS, Pontone Galery, New York, USA

2016 Walk in Emptiness, Pyo Gallery SEOUL, Seoul, Korea

2015 from dot, Makeshop Art Space, Paju, Korea

Walk in Emptiness, Gallery LEE & BAE, Busan, Korea

2012 Emptiness, Yoo Art Space, Seoul, Korea

2011 through Thousand Years, Gallery M, Daegu, Korea

2009 Light Wave & Love Wave, ILJU ART, Seoul, Korea

What sees what?, Cheonju Art Studio, Cheongju, Korea

2008 From Moment to Moment, ART SPACE H, Seoul, Korea

2005 Walk in Emptiness, Gallery X, Chicago, USA

#### ■ Selected Group Exhibition

2024 NO SNOW BIRDS ALLOWED : ART MIAMI MEETS TRIBECA, Friedrichs Pontone,  
New York, USA

2023 Tribeca Summer Show, Friedrichs Pontone, New York, USA

Nature & Now : Asian Art in Focus, Friedrichs Pontone, New York, USA

2022 LAUNCH, Friedrichs Pontone, New York, USA

SOFT LAUNCH, Friedrichs Pontone, New York, USA

2021 SOUTH KOREAN CONTEMPORARY ART, Pontone Gallery, New York, USA

Art Miami 2021, One Herald Plaza, Miami, USA

EXPO CHICAGO 2021, Navy Pier Exhibition Center, Chicago, USA

2020 Art Mimi 2020, One Herald Plaza, Miami, USA

Untitled, Art San Francisco 2020, Pontone Gallery, San Francisco, USA

2019 Asian Masters : Lee Jungwoong, Xu Zhongmin and Choi Soowhan,

Pontone Gallery, New York, USA

Art Miami 2019, One Herald Plaza, Miami, USA

VOLTA Basel 2019, Klybeck 610, Basel, Switzerland

Korean Eye 2020 Teaser Exhibition, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

2018 Abu Dhabi Art 2018, Manarat Al Saadiyat,, Abu Dhabi, UAE

2016 How to keep winter, Shinsegae gallery, Incheon, Korea

"road-look back, C21, Seoul, Korea

Document The traces of 10 years The future of the 10years, Cheongju Art Studio,  
Cheongju, Korea

2015 Fall, GUM BO SUNG ART, Seoul, Korea

Light & View, Gallery KUNST, Daegu, Korea

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- BLUE, Gallery LEE & BAE, Busan, Korea  
ART BUSAN 2015, BEXCO, Busan, Korea  
ART GYEONGJU 2015 SPECIAL EXHIBITION, HICO, Gyeongju, Korea  
2014 DREAMLAND, YANGPYEONG, yangpyeong art museum, Yangpyeong, Korea  
Prologue 2014, MakeShop Art Space, Paju, Korea  
LANTERN FESTIVAL 2014, Cheonggyecheon, Seoul, Korea  
MakeShop Top10, MakeShop Art Space, Paju, Korea  
SeMA's New Acquisitions 2013, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
2013 Winter Project\_ALIVE ART MUSEUM, Yangpyeong art museum, Yangpyeong, Korea  
The 4th International Contemporary Art Gwangju Art· Vision Exhibition,  
Gwangju Biennale Exhibition Hall, Gwangju, Korea  
The Enjoy Encounter, Pangyo, Korea  
Pyeong Chang Biennale, ANGVA Expo gallery, Gangwon, Korea  
Museum + Summer Vacance, Shinsegae gallery, Incheon, Korea  
2012 ILLUMINATION-Light in Today's Art, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea  
CheonMa Opening Special Exhibition, Cheonan, Korea  
CHEONGDAM ART FAIR, Art space Who, Seoul, Korea  
KIAF Seoul 2012, COEX, Seoul, Korea  
Gana Atelier Resident Artists Report Exhibition, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea  
Artience Project, the Expo Science Park, Daejeon, Korea  
contemporary art space c21 opening exhibition, Chugye University for the Arts,  
Seoul, Korea  
The Vision & Reflection 2012, Kyeong Book National University Art Museum,  
Daegu, Korea  
2011 Ceramic ART & TECHNOLOGY 2011, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea  
Forty, Art Today, Gallery H, Seoul, Korea  
MAGIC HOUR, Lotte Gallery, Busan, Korea  
dot and... , interalia Art Company, Seoul, Korea  
Hotel Art Fair, Daegu, Korea  
Mural Project, Anguk Station, Seoul, Korea  
Minimal Art, Gallery CHUNGDAM, Cheongdo, Korea  
2010 Oh, Happy Day!, Lotte Gallery, Anyang, Korea  
Light Effect, Lotte Gallery, Daejeon, Korea  
Christmas Is All Around, JangHeung Artpark Red space, Yangpyeong, Korea  
2010 ceramic ART & TECHNOLOGY, aT center, Seoul, Korea  
ART EDITION 10', BEXCO, Busan, Korea  
123 gallery, 123 GALLERY, Seoul, Korea  
Art Road 77 Art Fair 2th-With Art, With Artist!, Gallery HANGIL, Heyri, Korea  
fantastic, Cheongju Art Studio, Cheongju, Korea  
my room our atelier, Gana Contemporary, Seoul, Korea  
2010 International Fine Art Project, South Africa  
Art Amsterdam 2010, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Facing Korea Now, Canvas International Art gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
New ARTPARK: Individuals, ART PARK, Seoul, Korea

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- Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
Happy New Art, Road to the Museum, Seoul, Korea
- 2009 LIGHT ON!, Johyun Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Korea Tomorrow, SETEC, Seoul, Korea  
The First Noel, Severance Art Space, Seoul, Korea  
Daegu Art Fair 2009, EXCO, Daegu, Korea  
Oil's other name, Yeonhui-dong Projects, Seoul, Korea  
Velvet Inspiration, KIMI Art. Seoul, Korea  
HAECCHI Parade, Gwanghwamun Plaza, Seoul, Korea  
Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju, Korea  
Living Furniture, Cheongju Art Studio, Cheongju, Korea  
The desire & restriction\_about a virtual image, LEEAHN Gallery, Daegu, Korea  
Christmas in August, Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Mad for Furniture, Nefspace. Seoul, Korea  
THE INITIATIVE\_Seoul, MUE Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Ways of tracing moments, KT Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Truth about retina, Inter Alia, Seoul, Korea  
Seoul Living Design Fair 2009, COEX, Seoul, Korea  
The tactic confronting with the island, Chungjeonggak, Seoul, Korea  
Take out, Curiosity, Seoul, Korea
- 2008 an interim report, Cheongju Art Studio, Korea  
Illusion of light, World Culture Open Center, New York, USA  
SAIC + DCB, Design Center Busan, Busan, Korea
- 2007 The 11th Annual Art Under The Bridge Festival, DUMBO, Brooklyn, USA  
Canal Chapter Residency Project, New York, USA  
Its Me!, Galesburg Civic Art Center, Galesburg, USA  
The 2ndAll that is solid melts into air, New York, USA
- 2006 Studios Midwest Exhibition, Ford Center for the Fine Arts, Galesburg, USA  
All that is solid melts into air, Gallery 2, Chicago, USA  
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Gallery 2, Chicago, USA  
Generations, South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, USA  
Light Experiments, ATS deep display of SAIC, Chicago, USA
- 2005 STREET STORIES, Walsh Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2004 Nippon U.S.A. / SAIC Presidential Award Exhibition, Chicago, USA
- 2001 Same Generation & Next Generation, Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
"TA-RAE", Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 2000 26th AJAC Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
The 5th Art Festival-Graduate School of Arts, Chung-Ang University Art Center,  
Seoul, Korea  
Gwangju Biennale Special Exhibition "forest of Human Beings, Forest of Painting,"  
Gwangju Biennale Exhibition Hall, Gwangju, Korea  
"Art of art" Chung-Ang University Art Center, Seoul, Korea
- 1999 "TA-RAE" , DongDuk Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
1998 "TA-RAE" , KongPyng Art Center, Seoul, Korea

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1997 BFA Graduate Exhibition, DukWon museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
Up coming New Artists, Inter Gallery Art Center, Seoul, Korea  
Neo – 97 The Trend of Korean Art, DukWon museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
“The Great Koguryo Exhibition at the British Museum” Memorial Art Festival,  
LOGOS Gallery, London, England

### ■ Public Art Project

2021 U planet Media Screen, Guangmyeong, Korea

### ■ Artist Residencies

2012 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea  
2011 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea  
2010 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea  
2009 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea  
2008 CHEONGJU Art Studio, Korea  
2007 THE CANAL CHAPTER, New York, USA  
2006 Studios Midwest, Galesburg Civic Art Center, Galesburg, USA

### ■ Awards

2006 Fred & Gusan Novy Leadership Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago,  
Chicago, USA  
2005 Targetti Light Art Award, Florence, Italy  
2004 Nippon U.S.A. / SAIC Presidential Award, Chicago, U.S

### ■ Public Collections

2016 Korea Electric Power Corporation, Uijeongbu, Korea  
Jeju museum of Contemporary Art, Jeju, Korea  
2014 Korean National oil Corporation, Ulsan, Korea  
2013 Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
2011 Sheraton D Cube City Hotel, Seoul, Korea  
Tesco Homeplus Academy, Incheon, Korea  
Daegu MBC, Daegu, Korea  
2009 LIG Insurance Co., Ltd., Seoul, Korea  
Dongseo University, Busan, Korea  
Ocean Hills Country Club, Cheongdo, Korea  
2008 FAWOO Technology, Korea  
2007 Michael Aram, Inc., New York, USA  
2006 Galesburg Civic Art Center, Galesburg, USA  
VOA Associates, Inc., Chicago  
LEASECORP, Chicago