

Sungjae Lee

LEE&BAE

Invisible Structures of Care and Connection

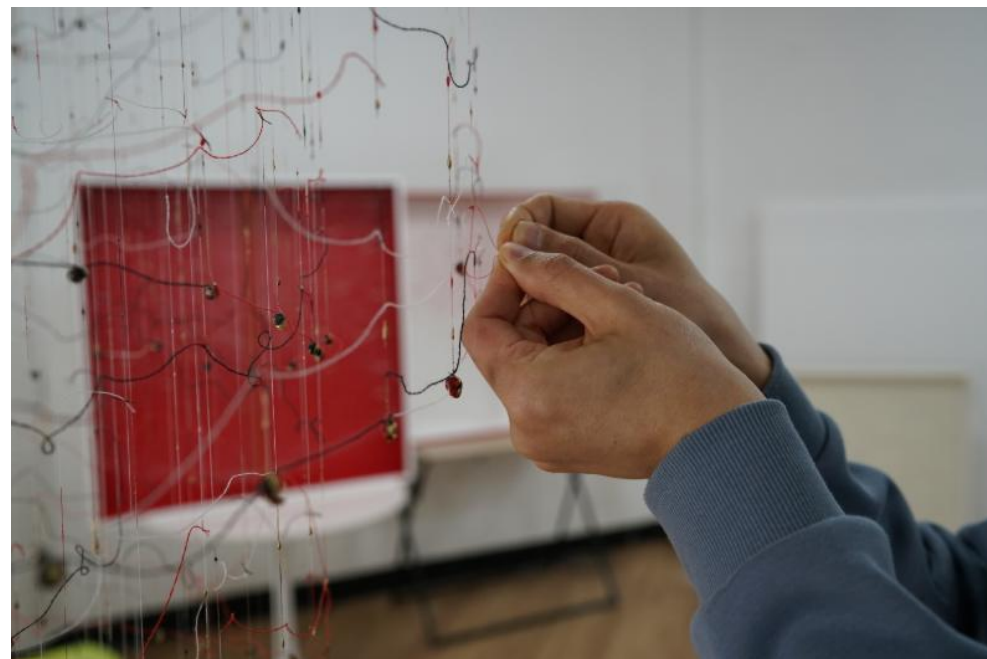


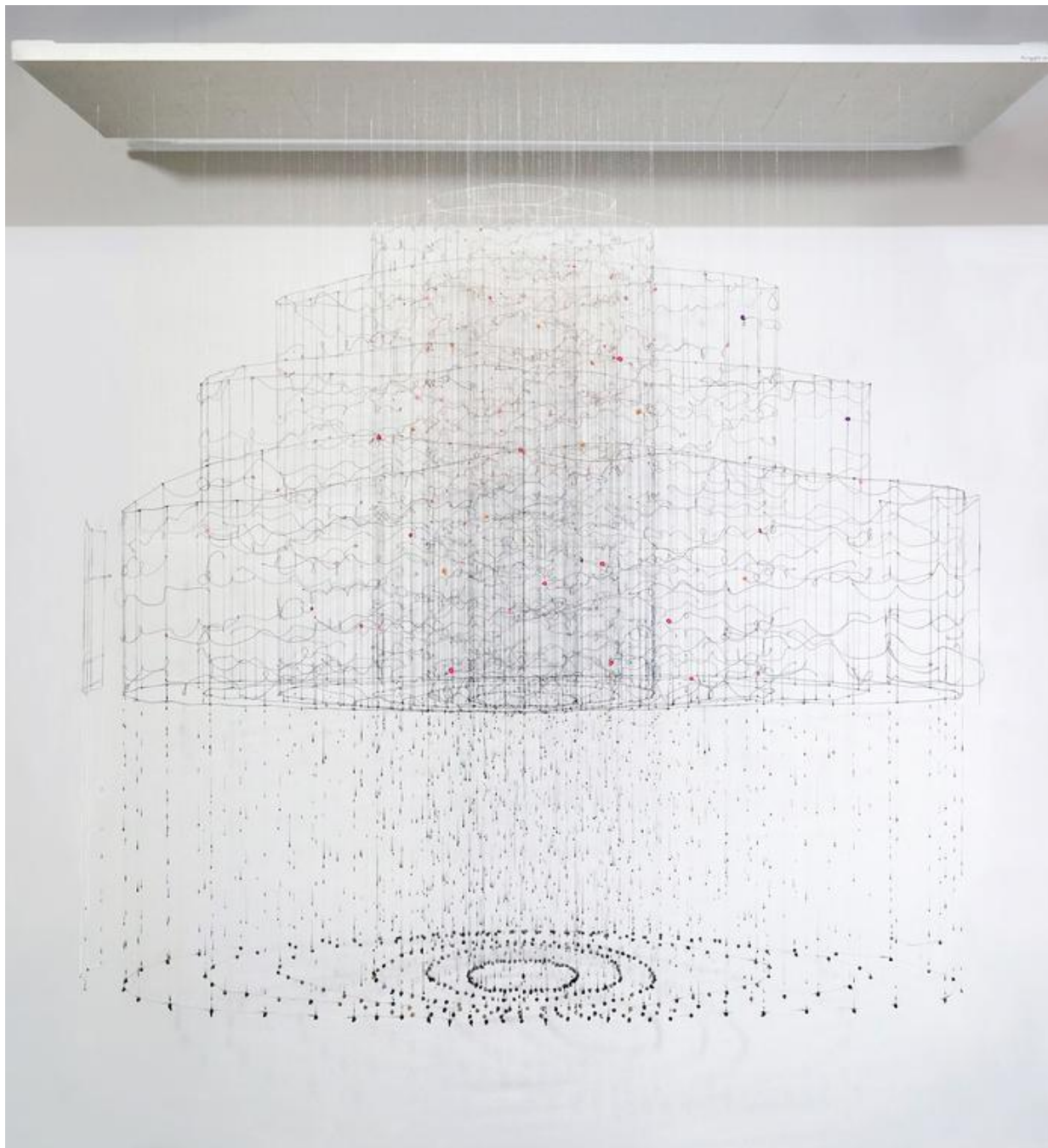
Sungjae Lee constructs spatial drawings using thread, fabric, and delicate materials, extending the language of drawing into three-dimensional space. His works are formed through countless repetitions of tying, weaving, and layering, creating suspended structures that hover between image and architecture. Rather than depicting subjects directly, Lee translates overlooked lives and anonymous landscapes into intricate networks of lines. These forms emerge gradually, shaped by time and accumulation, and remain in a delicate balance between presence and disappearance. His installations are not static. Subtle movements caused by air and the surrounding environment gently activate the work, allowing it to shift, vibrate, and expand perceptually. Through this, the linear quality of drawing is combined with spatial depth and motion.

Invisible Structures of Care and Connection

A Space Formed Through Repetition and Care

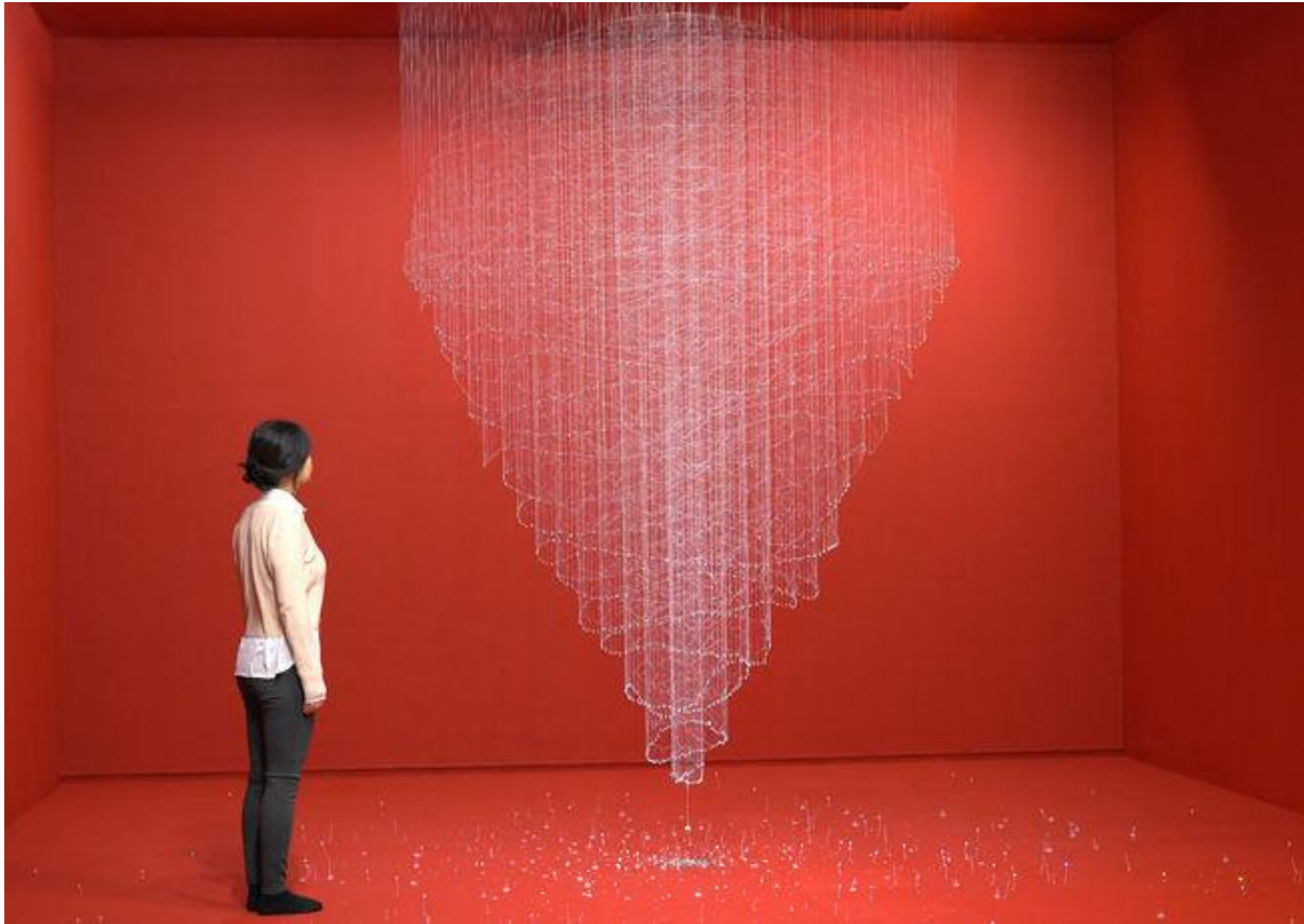
Sungjae Lee's work is grounded in repetitive hand labor—tying, weaving, and layering threads over extended periods of time. These gestures recall forms of domestic labor traditionally associated with women: sewing in silence, repairing what is worn, and sustaining the rhythms of everyday life. At the core of his practice lies an attention to invisible existence—particularly the lives of women whose labor, like air or soil, quietly supports the world yet often remains unseen. Rather than representing these figures directly, Lee translates their presence into delicate, accumulated structures of lines. For Lee, repetition is not only a method of making, but a way of inhabiting time. As gestures are repeated, personal memories and emotional traces gradually become embedded within the work, forming a space where individual experience and collective history intersect. Through the accumulation of these small and continuous actions, his work reveals lives that are rarely visible yet deeply felt. What appears fragile is in fact sustained by endurance—where care, time, and human presence are held within a quietly resilient structure.





Sungjae Lee, *Low Mound, Burned Water*, 2024

Dried Sweat, Gallery Jeon, 2025



Sungjae Lee, *Broken Water*, 2022
Grand Prize, ZOOM-IN Section, Korea Galleries Art Fair, 2024



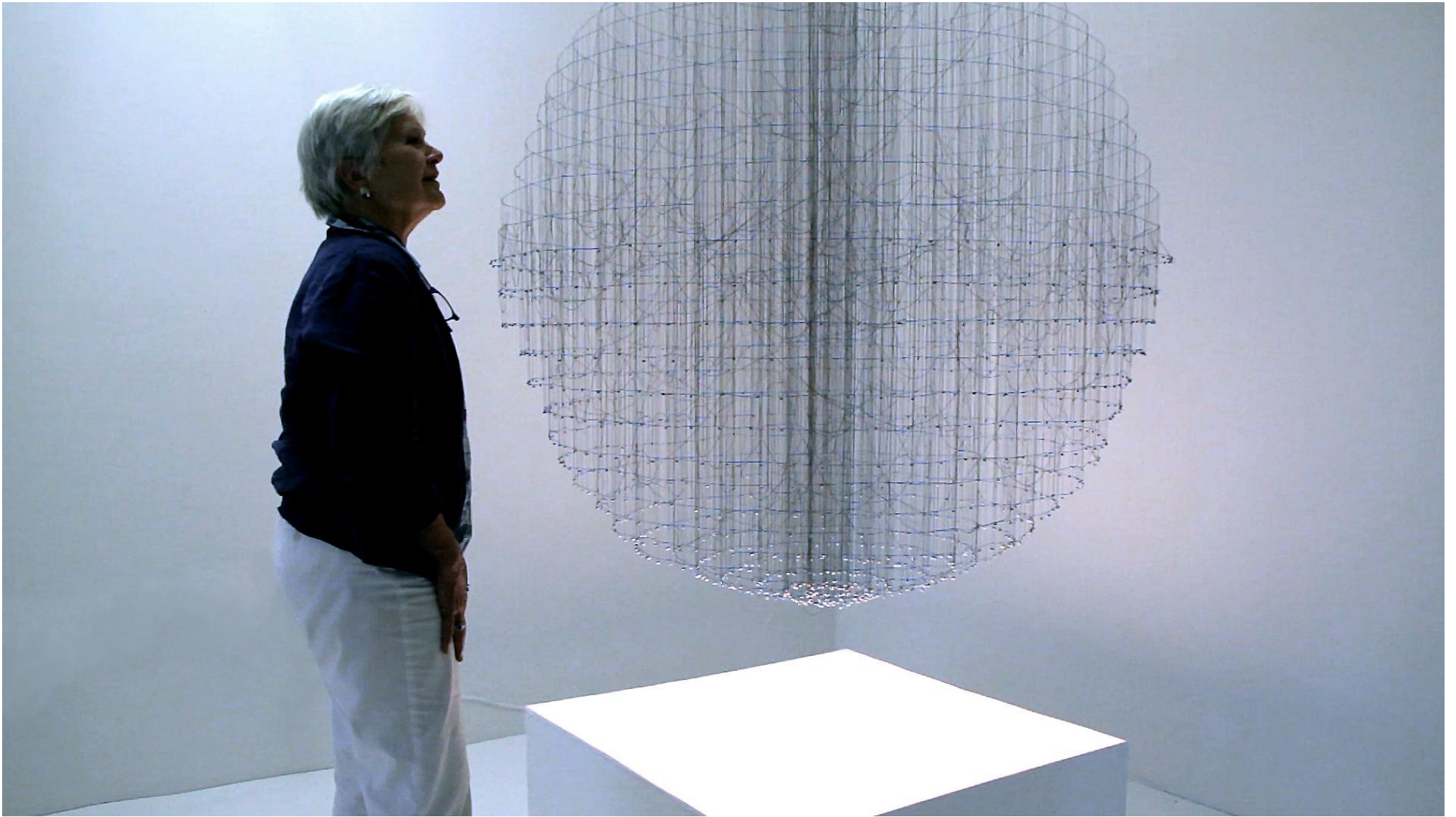
Sungjae Lee, *A Birth of Mother*, 2021

Into Drawing: Grandma, dad's mom, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art (SOMA), 2022



Sungjae Lee, *Her Real Secret: Onement (Red)*, 2018

Into Drawing: Grandma, dad's mom, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art (SOMA), 2022



Sungjae Lee, *Floating Drawing: Spherical Sphere*, 2017

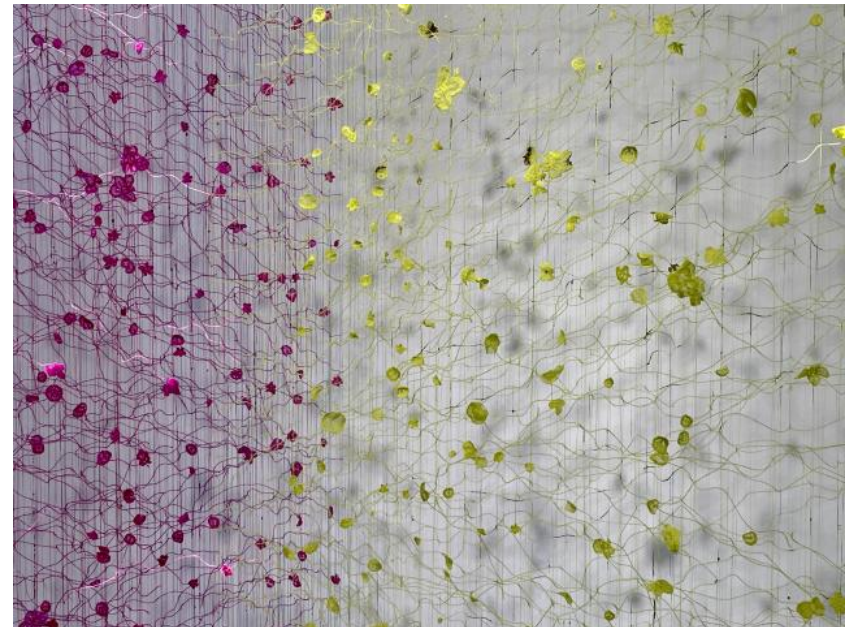
MASS MoCA Residency, 2017



Sungjae Lee, *Avyakrta: The Unanswered Questions*, Single-channel video
Commissioned for the 1st VH Award, supported by Hyundai Motor Company, 2016

Structures Formed Through Repetition

Sungjae Lee's work emerges through a process in which the body becomes inseparable from material. Thread, tension, and gravity are not simply tools, but conditions that register the artist's physical engagement over time. Rather than constructing a fixed image, Lee allows forms to develop through accumulation and repetition. Through the continuous tying, layering, and extension of lines, structures gradually take shape—formed not by design alone, but through sustained manual action. The resulting structures are not rigid. Subtle variations, irregularities, and gaps remain visible, revealing the traces of movement and time embedded in the work. These elements do not signify imperfection, but rather a record of process and duration. In this sense, Lee's work can be understood as a spatial inscription of time—where repetition, material, and gesture converge to form a quietly resonant structure.





Rise

2026

Nylon wire, thread, acrylic gouache, and paper on wood
105 x 105 x 10 cm



Evaporated Water and Its Winkles no.5

2026

Nylon wire, thread, acrylic gouache, and paper on wood
105 x 105 x 10 cm



Night rain and pond

2025

Nylon wire, thread, acrylic gouache, and paper on wood
105 x 105 x 10 cm



Night wave

2025

Nylon wire, thread, acrylic gouache, and paper on wood
105 x 105 x 10 cm

Sungjae Lee



b.1985

Born in Seoul

Works and lives in Seoul and Los Angeles

■ Education

MFA California Institute of the Arts, USA

BFA Kong-ju National University, Korea

■ Solo Exhibition

2025 「Dried Sweat」 Gallery Jeon Daegu, Korea

2024 「Cross the World」 Bukchon Cultural Center Seoul, Korea

2022 「Into Drawing: Grandma, Dad's Mom」 Seoul Olympic Museum of Art Seoul, Korea

2019 「Her Real Secret: Onement」 Joshua Tree Highland Artist Residency Joshua Tree, USA

2018 「Partial Entirety」 Gallery 825 Los Angeles, USA

2015 「This Uncertain Conversation」 California Institute of the Arts Valencia, USA

■ Selected Group Exhibition

2025 「The13th International Fiber Art Biennale」 Tsinghua Art Museum, Beijing, China

2025 「The Drawing」 Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

2024 「Galleries Art Fair: ZOOM-IN EDITION 5」 COEX, Seoul, Korea

2023 「Into Drawing Plus」 Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

2022 「Incarnated Ghosts」 Lee & Lee Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2021 「The 1st Suzhou Craft Biennale」 Mashan Tourist Center, Suzhou, China

2021 「JTHAR: 15th-year exhibition」 San Bernardino County Museum, San Bernardino, CA, USA

2020 「Defining Beauty」 California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks, CA, USA

2019 「Asia Digital Art Exhibition: Symbiosis」 No.6 Chuangye Road, Beijing, China

2019 「NYLON Think Vision Art Exhibition」 Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, China

2019 「LA ART SHOW: DIVERSartLA」 Los Angeles Convention Center, CA, USA

2018 「Encounter Korea」 Southern Utah Museum of Art, Cedar City, UT, USA

2018 「Vibrant Matter + Maiden L.A.」 Beacon Arts Building, Inglewood, CA, USA

2018 「Currents New Media 2018」 El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, USA

2018 「CIRCUMSTANCES」 Korea Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2018 「Infinite Undoing」 Galleri 2987, Detroit, MI, USA

- 2017 「Cheongju Craft Biennale」 Old Tobacco Processing Plant, Cheongju, Korea
- 2016 「RADICAL ATOMS」 Deep space 8k, Ars electronica, Linz, Austria
- 2016 「VH AWARD」 Vision Hall, Yong-in, Korea
- 2015 「FFE2015」 Pearl Conrad Art Gallery, Mansfield, OH, USA
- 2015 「Tech+ Art」 Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- 2014 「Showcase 2014」 RedCat, Los Angeles, CA, USA

■ Selected Award

- 2024 「Galleries Art Fair 2024: ZOOM-IN 5」 Grand Prize
- 2024 「Seo-woon Gallery in Jeondeung-sa Temple」 Solo exhibition opportunity
- 2022 「SOMA museum: Drawing Center」 15th Archiving artist, and Solo exhibition
- 2021 「The 1st Suzhou Craft Biennale」 ZHENHU Award
- 2020 「Juried International Art Exhibition at CMATO」 Contributing Artist Award
- 2018 「Lumen Prize」 Moving Image Award
- 2018 「The 24th Contemporary Art Competition at KCCLA」 Best of Show
- 2015 「VH AWARD」 Finalist

■ Residency

- 2026 「The 13th Youngeun Creative Studio」 Youngeun Museum of Art, Korea
- 2019 「Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency」 Joshua Tree, California, USA
- 2018 「Vermont Studio Center」 Johnson, Vermont, VT, USA
- 2017 「Studios at MASS MoCA」 North Adams, Massachusetts, MA, USA

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