



Youmee Lee

LEE & BAE

While the wind rises...
 - About those who passed by or
 were encountered, and what
 fled away or left-

To live as a human being.
 What he goes through as a human being.
 To repeat short pleasures and long pains.

Irrevocable life stories to drop away like sand of sandglass force a human being living the present to feel the futility of life and humility as well. The wind in Jeju island features my works this time. Through the wind flapping about they are to tell us about the experiences of mine and yours which being with life shares.

The wind in Jeju left its traces in various forms. Trees grown up toward the way the wind rises, ones laid down close to the ground, the walls of stone with holes of way for the wind to go through, which look stacked loosely and falling down easily, and seeds attached to the collar of clothes by the wind by chance. What is most impressed was, however, fluttering black diving suits of Haenyeo (female divers) hung over clothesline. There would rise the wind brushing against them. The diving suits themselves, which had to endure long time of labour harshly, seemed to show the traces accumulated trace by trace out of their lives as if they had breathed again as the wind whistled from this and that way to dry the suits out.

The black diving suits of Haenyeo looked like breath and the skin left after soul and body escaped. They contained traces of their lives here and there as if old body and dead skin cells formed on hand and foot, nay as if delicate sentiments were hidden innermost. Their own way to live a life, moments of all sorts of human emotions like joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure when to hover between life and death were alive in the suits. Unawares they would thank for finishing a hard and weary day of journey in silence, and generate strength and courage with which they should confront another same day of tomorrow.

Through the wind in Jeju my works created by means of stories from nature, and people living in it may leave a trace in someone as a small event and part of his life today!

From Artist's note

What Remains

The wind in Jeju peeled away a layer of the artist Youmee Lee's skin. The verbal sentiments she had long explored without putting them into words, along with the concrete forms unraveled through a child's gaze and the delicate pathological explorations of the present, no longer matter to the artist. Through the layer that has been peeled away, however, something greater and more essential has emerged. Like a monk who comes to utter an ancient koan through a long and painful ascetic practice, Lee's works retain an intense sense of simplicity and meditative essence. Examining works that approach existence from a cosmological perspective, much as Buddhism contemplates the meaning of emptiness, reveals that what matters is not the secular reality of human existence—everyday life, suffering, relationships, and so forth—but something that lies beyond them. Perhaps this offers a clue to what the artist has been seeking all along: not the various forms of expression themselves, but an apprehension of their essence, something that remains difficult to grasp yet is ceaselessly pursued by thoughtful human beings. The new works approach this essence in a simple and powerful manner, through a restrained formal language distinct from Lee's previous practice. As the meditative dimension of the figures is brought to the forefront, their movement from the secular toward the sacred expands further than before. <Searching for the Road – He> recalls the plain, austere presence of an early Buddhist statue, while <To Console Thyself> evokes a tranquil yet desolate emotion reminiscent of Christ suspended upon the cross. Both take the form of human beings, yet neither depicts a specific individual. Instead, they embody the abstract quality of Lee's sustained effort to move beyond representation and pursue the essence itself.





Youmee Lee Solo Exhibition: And yet... , Gallery Sein, 2018



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Youmee Lee Invitation Exhibition: 異床同夢, Jeju museum of contemporary art, 2018



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Youmee Lee Solo Exhibition: Whoever..., 2nd avenue gallery, 2019



Youmee Lee Solo Exhibition: Whoever..., 2nd avenue gallery, 2019



Stardust

2019
Paper
Variable installation



Beyond That

2010
Traditional Korean paper, iron, gold leaf, magnet
28 x 28 x 52 cm



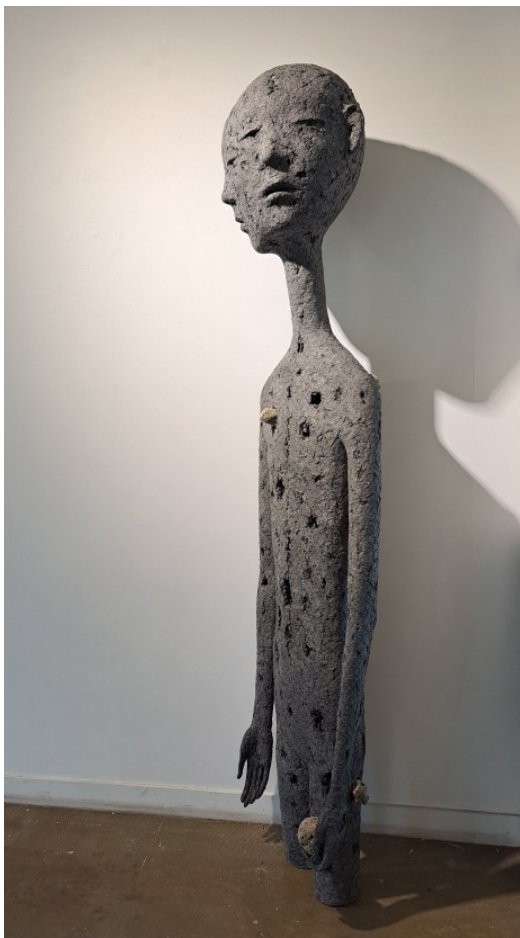
Here and Now, Us

2024
Paper, Basalt, Iron
205 x 50 x 44 cm



Premontitions are never wrong – I can't just sit still...

2024
Paper, Pumice, Basalt, Mixed media
170 x 32 x 45 cm



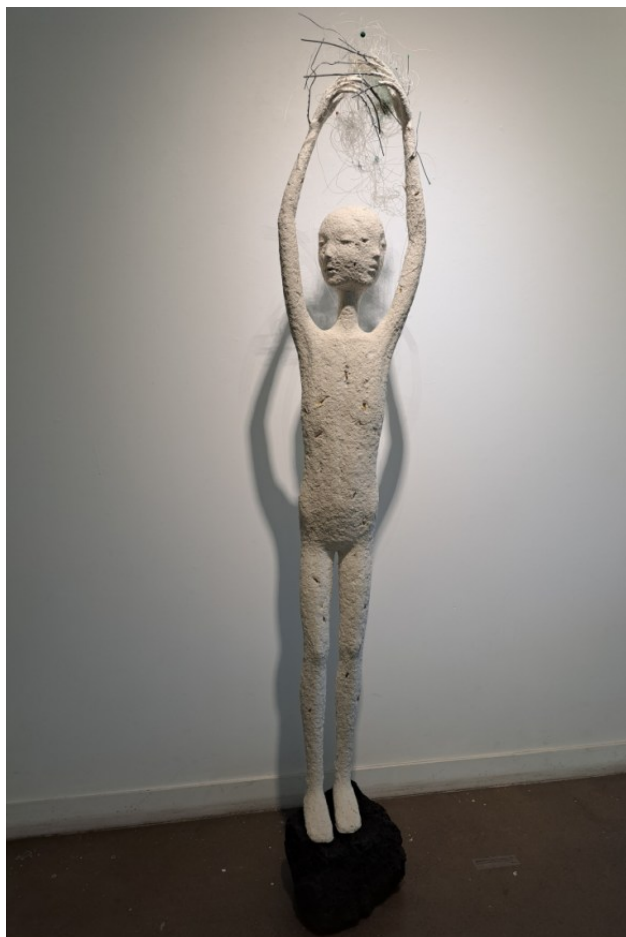
Now us

2023
Paper, Pumice, Mixed media
176 x 46 x 40 cm



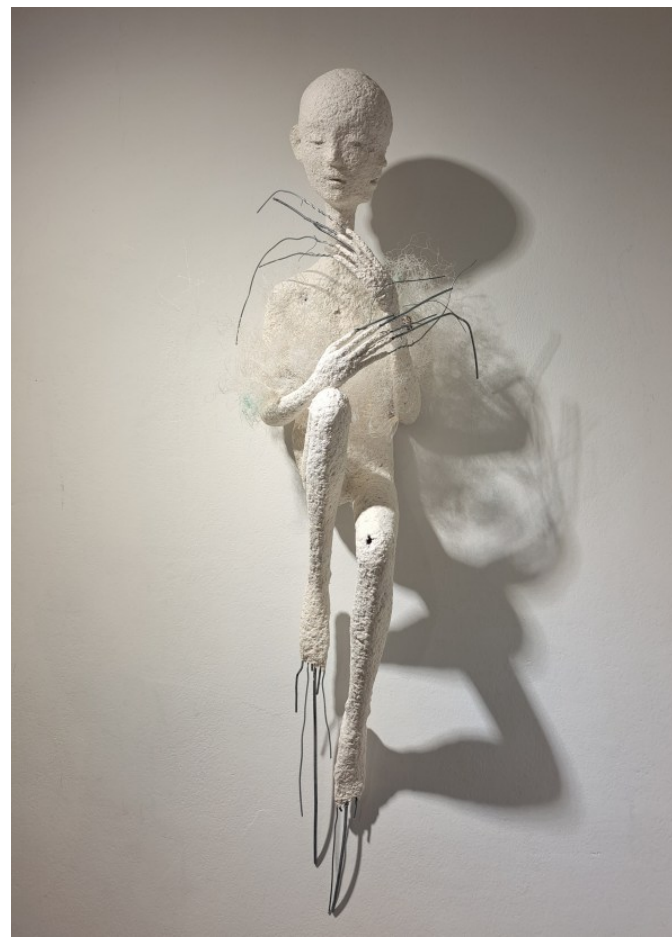
Oh moon, my dear moon

2024
Paper, Gold leaf, Basalt, Iron
68 x 17.5, 12 cm / 70 x 70 x 2 cm



Enduring Inconvenience...

2023
Traditional Korean paper, Basalt, Mixed media
162 x 33 x 25 cm



However It's a Relief

2023
Traditional Korean paper, Mixed media
105 x 33 x 22 cm

Youmee Lee



b.1969
Seoul, Korea

■ Educations

1996 MFA Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea

1993 BFAi Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea

■ Selected Solo Exhibition

2024 Youmee Lee Solo Exhibition, SONOART, Seoul, Korea

2023 It's okay, Dorossy Salon, Seoul, Korea

2022 Looking for the way, Egg Gallery, Yeosu, Korea

2020 Their Narrative - Please Forgive Me, Space Jamo , Seoul, Korea

Their Narrative - A great man can fall down, Gallery Jacob1212, Seoul, Korea

Their Narrative, Gallery Maritime Incheon, Korea

The Priceless, Sonoart, Seoul, Korea

Their Narrative, Doldam Gallery, Jeju, Korea

2019 Anyone, Gallery 2nd avenue, Seoul, Korea

2018 Nonetheless, Gallerysein, Seoul, Korea

Local Network Exchange Exhibition - Same Dreams, Different Places, Jeju Museum
of Contemporary Art, Jeju, Korea

2017 Indivisibility, Rund gallery, Seoul, Korea

2015 While the wind rises..., Haenyeo Museum, Jeju, Korea

2010 For all that, Gallery Banditrazos, Seoul, Korea

2008 Trust in Me, Gallery Sejul, Seoul, Korea

2006 The Black Dog - With Stars, Gallery Dos, Seoul, Korea

2003 Nobody Loves Me, Marronnier Art Center, Seoul, Korea

2000 無價之寶, SONOART, Seoul, Korea

Sorrow in reality and a fairy tale hidden in it, Dukwon Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

■ Selected Group Exhibition

2024 Each one's story - accidentally, Summer 1, ART B Project, Seoul, Korea

revolt, freedom and passion, Gallery R, Seoul, Korea

Quest for New Characters, Gidang Museum, Jeju, Korea

EXPO CHICAGO 2024, Navy Pier Festival Hall, Chicago, USA

2023 A Friendly Whisper, Sono Art, Seoul, Korea

2022 Notes, Egg Gallery, Yeosu, Korea

Garden of Song of Song, Kushi Macrobiotic School of Korea, Seoul, Korea

White-Swallow the Shadows, Sonoart, Seoul, Korea

Blue is Blue, Gallery Nouveau, Jeju, Korea

Black, and White - The color of silence, LEE & BAE, Busan, Korea

R22, Gallery R, Seoul, Korea

2021 海=水'人'母, The ObaekJanggoon Gallery, Gallery Nouveau, Jeju, Korea

+25-Live up to you name, Sonoart, Seoul, Korea

2020 The Wind of Seogwipo - Artists Who Crossed The Jeju Sea,

Leejungseop Art Museum, Jeju, Korea

Des Refuses, Art Space Purl, Daegu, Korea

Angels, Doldam Gallery, Jeju, Korea

White Color Paper, Gallery Jacob1212, Seoul, Korea

2019 Aurora 2019 (Sonoart, Seoul, Korea)

2016 E19782016 - Art & People from Her Years, Leeyoung Contemporary Art

Museum, Yongin, Korea

2015 Urban Eco – 3rd Vornado Art Fan Show, Gana Insa Art Center, Seoul, Korea

Fairy tales for adults, DTC Gallery Daejeon, Korea

2014 ZIPPO MUSEUM Open Anniversary Exhibition, ZIPPO Museum, Jeju, Korea

2013 Paju Heyri Spring Festival Slow Art, Heyri, Korea)

Leejungseop Art Museum Residency Exhibition, Leejungseop Art Museum,
Jeju, Korea

2012 Thinking map, Beyond the mind, Leejungseop Art Museum, Jeju, Korea

10 Curators & 10 Futures, Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

Hand made pottery Story, Leejungseop Art Museum, Jeju, Korea

2011 Inner Landscape, Gallery dooin, Seoul, Korea

Methodology of Self-Discovery, Gallery LEE&BAE, Busan, Korea

Opening Fever, Gana Art edition, Seoul, Korea

2010 Merry Christmas - Picture of the world, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea

My Room Our Atelier, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea

Human-Nature-Healing, Pocheon Art Valley, Kyonggi-do, Korea

The Horizon Exhibition on Contemporary Arts of Korea, Gallery Face, Seoul, Korea

2009 Play and Art Friends, Jang Heung Art Park, Kyonggi-do, Korea

Metropolis 999 Vol.1Mother-city-seoul, Metro9, Saetgang, Korea

Metaphor as a Material, Gongpyeong Gallery, Seoul, Korea

We met Wild Animals at Dorasan, Dorasan, Korea

FREE HUG, Gana Art GangNam, Seoul, Korea

FREE HUG, Gana Art Busan, Busan, Korea

Sothebys Contemporary Asian Art, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre,
Hong Kong

LEE YOU MEE, YUON KI BAIK, SHEEN NYON CHIC, Gahoe Dong 60, Seoul, Korea

2008 Wild Animal, Cheonggye Bridge, Cheonggye Art Studio Gallery

Gana Art 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea

Atelier Exhibition, Jang Heung Art Park, Yangpyeong, Korea

Art Culture in The Royal palace, Deoksugung stone wall Road, Seoul, Korea

Pre-Yangpyeong Eco Art Festival, Manas Art Center, Dr. Park Gallery,
Yangpyeong, Korea

2007 Art Safari-Art in Bloom, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

"Scent from the Eastern Sea", No More Grey Gallery, London, UK

The Story of Dosg and Cats, Daejeon Museum of Art, Daejeon, Korea

Cutting Edge, Seoul Auction House, Seoul, Korea

Eight other Figures for Space, CUBE Space, Seoul, Korea

Heyri Pan Festival, Heyri, Kyonggi-do, Korea

"They come out the city", Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture, Seoul, Korea

The exhibition exchange between the Korea and China, Gallery IEO, Namyangju, Korea

2006 The Year of Golden Pig, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea
 Artists' Garden, Clayarch Gimhae Museum, Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea
 Jungnangcheon Project, Jungnangcheon, Seoul, Korea
 Cutting Edge, Seoul Auction House, Seoul, Korea
 EHS Project 2006, Sejong Art Center, Seoul, Korea

2005 Wild Animals, Sejong Center Outdoor Deck Plaza, Seoul, Korea
 Wild Animals - Music of Suwon, Alternative Space Noon, Suwon, Korea
 Cutting Edge, Seoul Auction House, Seoul, Korea

2004 Finding Sculpture Exhibition, Docheok Church, Kyonggi-do, Korea
 Gallery Forum Opening Exhibition, Gallery Forum, Seoul, Korea
 Uiwang International Placard Art Festival, Baekunhosu Open Space, Kyonggi, Korea
 SPACE coordinate, Sinsadong One Building, Seoul, Korea
 Chongok Forum 2004, Hanyang University Museum, Seoul, Korea
 Mute'Exhibition, Rok gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Ewha Sculpture Exhibition, Gallery La Mer, Seoul, Korea

2003 Alumni Artist invitation Exhibition, The Little Angels Performing Arts Center, Seoul, Korea

2002 Wild Animals, Total Open-Air Museum, ChangHeung, Korea
 Chongok Paleolithic Project, Noam Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Modern Art Artist invitation Exhibition, Oll Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Ewha Sculpture Exhibition, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
 The tree, The forest and A human being, Korea National Arboretum and Forest Museum, Pocheon, Korea

2001 2001 to 2002, Gallery La Mer, Seoul, Korea
 Chongokli sectional Exhibition, Daim Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Wild Animals, Total Open-Air Museum, ChangHeung, Korea
 Chongok Forum Project III indoor installation art Exhibition, Moro Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 Chongok Forum Project III indoor installation art Exhibition, Gyeonggi Art Center, Suwon Korea
 "connection-Chongokrian ", Pre-history remains in Jeongok, Korea
 Art coming up a Living room, Myart gallery, Seoul, Korea

2000 Intellect and Sensibility for the 21st, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
 Uttering Exhibition of Young Artist, Seoul City Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

1999 Three hundred of Postcards Exhibition, In the Loop, Seoul, Korea
 Another daily Life Exhibition, Art Center, Seoul, Korea
 EWHA. ACTION. VISION, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
 OZONE-'Public Restroom' Project, Han River Public Park, Seoul, Korea

1998 Another daily Life Exhibition, Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea

1996 Five Sculptor Exhibition, Insa Gallery, Seoul, Korea

1995 Lee You Mee & Kim Eun Hyun, The Art Museum of Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea
 'SUNYE' Thirty Four Artists Exhibition, Chungnam Artgallery, Seoul, Korea
 'VISION' Sculpture Exhibition, Dukwon Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

1994 'SUNWHO' Group Exhibition, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea

1993 'SUNWHO' Group Exhibition, Gongpyung Art Center, Seoul, Korea

■ Artist Residencies

2012 Leejungseop Art Museum Artists Residency Program, Jeju, Korea

2010 CITE' INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS, Paris, France
 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea

2009 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea

2008 GANA ATELIER, Yangju, Korea

■ Art Project

2003 Baekunhosu Art Project, Baekunhosu, Uiwang, Korea

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