



Hyemin Lee



# Hyemin Lee

## BIOGRAPHY



Hyemin Lee's best known series of works are constructed from numerous small hand-sewn fabric pillows made out of "Hanbok Clothing" (Korean traditional cloth) this evoke the artist's personal memories, dreams, and hopes. The groupings of vividly colored pillows, facing up and down, resemble life itself, entangled in emotions, experiences, and relationships. Another of her series, Waves, is a collection of plaster bandages shaped into lace-like waves. The artist brings a new life to these formerly insignificant and incomplete materials. Her art is almost always inspired by her own experiences, whether physical or emotional.

Hyemin Lee studied Sculpture at Seoul National University, after which she completed her MA at NYU. She currently works and travels between Seoul and NY. The artist has held solo exhibitions at a number of galleries and museums in several countries, including Young Eun Museum of Contemporary Art (2016), Art Mora, NY (2015), TENRI Cultural Institute, NY (2014), and Coohaus Art, NY (2015). She has also participated in group shows at Art Basel Hong Kong (2016), Sylvia Ko Gallery, NY (2014), and more.

# Hyemin Lee

## BIOGRAPHY

1968 Born in Seoul, South Korea  
Lives and works in Seoul and NY

### Education

2001 New York University, MA  
1992 Seoul National University, BFA

### Public Collections

Chosun Ilbo, Seoul  
SBS Broadcasting Company, Seoul  
LG Group, Seoul  
Youngeun Museum, Kwangju

### Solo Exhibitions

2019 A Thousand Water Drops, Lee Eugean Gallery, Seoul  
2019 Encounter, Jplus Gallery, New York  
2018 The Molding, Gallery Royal, Seoul  
2017 Breathe, Art Mora, New York  
2016 Metamorphosis, Young Eun Museum, Kwangju  
2016 Metamorphosis, Gallery EM, Seoul  
2015 Fragility, Art Mora, New York  
2014 Pillow, Design Post, Seoul  
2014 Pillow Talk, Tenri, New York  
2013 Unseen, Unstable, Uncertain, Galley EM, Seoul  
2013 Seed, Pizzart, New York  
2012 Sew Memories, Coohaus, New York

### Selected Group Show

2020 LA Art Show, LA  
2019 Art Daegu, Daegu  
2018 Art Miami, Florida  
2017 Invisible Things, Korean Cultural Center, Washington DC.  
2017 Kiaf, Coex, Seoul  
2017 Art Busan, Bexco, Busan  
2016 Art Basel, Hong Kong  
2015 Alma Mater-1, Gana Art Center, Seoul  
2015 Scope Art Fair, New York  
2014 Foundation Art Fair, New York  
2014 Media Art, Sylvia Ko Gallery, New York  
2014 Gana International Artfair, DDP, Seoul  
2014 AK Gallery, Seoul  
2013 BBCN Bank, New York



## Hyemin Lee

### Artist Statement

“A thousand water drops can break a stone.”

Epitomized by this Korean proverb, the belief in the hidden power of small, seemingly insignificant entities is central to my process. My soft sculptures composed of thousands of miniature pillows grow into a monumental presence through strength in numbers. Each of the pillow forms, painstakingly made using abandoned traditional Korean blankets and garments, treasures and holds a dream, hope, or desire. They then accumulate together to create profound constructions. By going through my work process, the delicate and fragile pieces of fabric defy their once forsaken fate and transform into a solid, commanding presence.

In my cast series, this stark contrast between raw material and final form is mirrored. The pillow forms are instead made of solid, hard bronze and resin, while their compositions now seem impossibly balanced and fragile. Delicately stacked one on top of the other, initially the viewer may assume that these are made of soft cloth as well, perhaps using exquisite gold fabric. However, in reality these pillows are sharp and cold to the touch, and completely unforgiving in form. They will not bend or break. These explorations of dichotomies between structure and material, reality and assumptions continue to develop in my work as I seek to transform the weak into the strong, and bring out the soft from the hard. Soft is never weak.



# Pillow Series

Hyemin Lee



Pillows  
2018  
120 x 120 cm  
Hanbok fabric, cotton, wire

Hyemin Lee



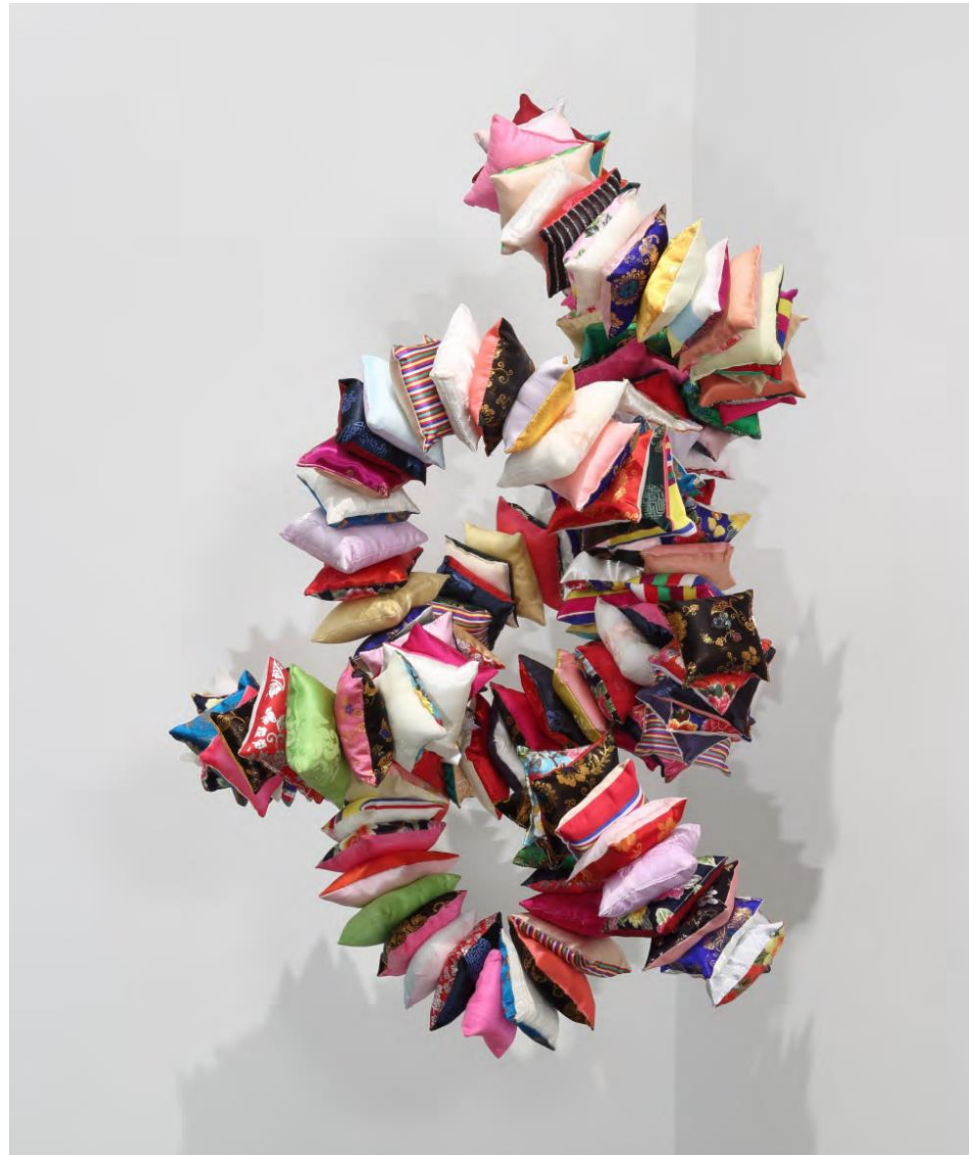
Pillows  
2014  
150 x 150 x 15 cm (each)  
Hanbok fabric, cotton



Hyemin Lee



Pillow  
2018  
40 x 36 cm  
Hanbok fabric, cotton, wire



Hanging Pillow  
2018  
Size Variable  
Hanbok fabric, cotton, wire



Small dreams  
2014  
Hanbok fabric, cotton

**Hyemin Lee**



Seed Series, 2013, fabric, cotton, 30 x 30 x 10 cm (each)

Hyemin Lee



Molding Series, 2018  
Size Variable  
Hanbok fabric, cotton, wire

Hyemin Lee



Molding Series, 2018, Size Variable, Hanbok fabric, cotton, wire



# White Dream

## Hyemin Lee



Installation View

The artist brings a new life to these formerly insignificant and incomplete materials. Her art is almost always inspired by her own experiences, whether physical or emotional. she uses materials that evoke the inconsequential and the fragile, such as old fabric, broken wooden frames, and plaster bandages for treating patients in hospitals.

In Hyemin Lee's most recent work "White Dream series", she uses plaster bandages malleable when wet, but solid and unbreakable once dry. The artist takes advantage of the material's trans-formative power to create the illusion of frail, delicate waves that are in fact both serene and strong. Softness does not mean weakness.



**Hyemin Lee**



Untitled (White Dreams), 2013, plaster bandage, 160 x 160 x 8 cm (each)

**Hyemin Lee**



Untitled (White Dreams),  
2018  
gauze bandage  
150 cm diameter



Untitled (White Dreams),  
2018  
gauze bandage  
150 x 150 cm

**Hyemin Lee**

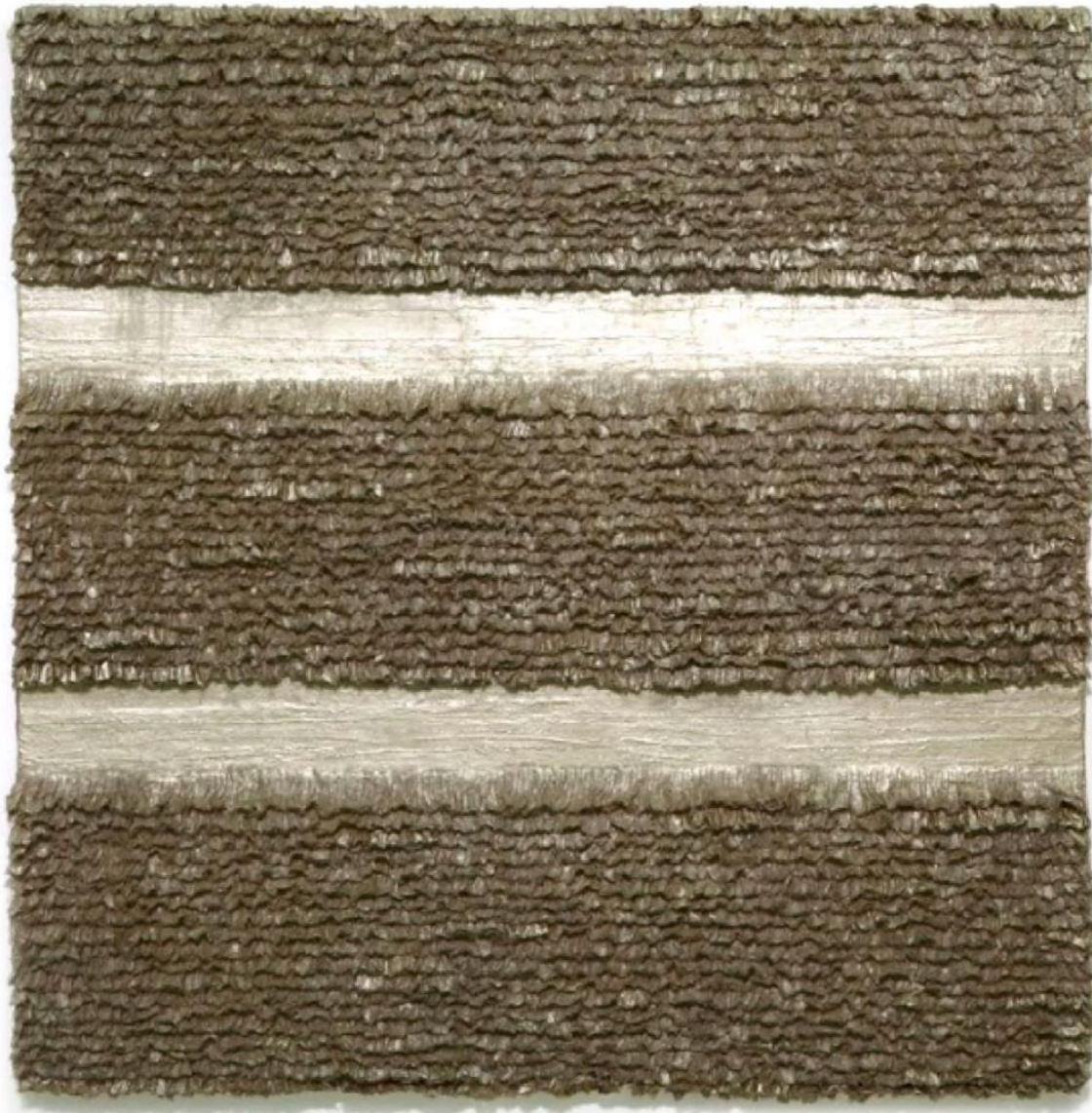


Untitled (White Dreams),  
2018  
plaster bandage, auto paint  
150 x 150 cm

Hyemin Lee



Untitled (White Dreams),  
2018  
plaster bandage, auto paint  
150 x 150 cm



Untitled (White Dreams),  
2018  
plaster bandage, auto paint  
150 x 150 cm



# Sculpture



Metamorphosis  
2016  
Cast bronze





Metamorphosis,  
2017  
Cast bronze  
30 x 30 x 50 cm

**Hyemin Lee**



Installation View



Metamorphosis,  
2018  
Cast bronze

Hyemin Lee



Metamorphosis,  
2017  
Cast bronze  
57 × 11 × 11 cm

Hyemin Lee



Metamorphosis,  
2017  
Cast bronze  
120 × 18 × 18 cm

Hyemin Lee



Untitled,  
2018  
Cloth, cotton  
50 × 15 x 15 cm



Installation View



Installation View





Installation View



Installation View

For more information or inquiry concerning the work of artist,  
Please contact our gallery.

E-mail. [info@helioart.co.kr](mailto:info@helioart.co.kr) Tel. +82-2-511-3201

[www.helioart.co.kr](http://www.helioart.co.kr)

**HelioArt**