

Se Moon Park



Light, Darkness, and the Tree

Life embraces duality. Positives and negatives circulate eternally in the universe and existence follows this ideology. I want to make this humble truth a tangible experience through sculpture. An abstract form can serve a unique function and capture order in complexity, demonstrated with the purest of mediums - Light and Darkness. One who is swallowed within darkness can no longer visualize their path. When illumination is discovered so is identity, yet the darkness still remains as a reminder to cherish the ephemerality of light.

The tree is an allegory of existence. It grows from roots deep in the unseeable darkness of the ground to show itself to the world as it reaches for light, contorting to find and escape its glow. In the eternal passing of day into night, the tree consumes and produces, in a continuity of singular moments – moments where the intricacies of the world dissolve, dissolving to unify. The tree, as form, captures the essence of divine order within nature.

Light and Darkness is the most fundamental component of my work. When light dissolves into shadow, and then reemerges, I reflect upon instances in my own life when I was lost and had to find a new path. Light and dark is omnipresent in life and time. They are of equal importance, reminding us of the order that exists in nature and how every moment in life is cherished.

- Se Yoon Park

About the Artist

Se Yoon Park was born in Gumi, a small city in South Korea, in 1979. He spent most of his childhood and adolescence in Changwon City, where rapid industrialization took place in the 1980s and 90s. The stark contrast between his life in the countryside and the industrialist city form the root of his contemplations on light, darkness, time, and life.

He began his academic studies in architecture at the department of Architectural Engineering of Yonsei University in Seoul in 1998. After four years of undergraduate study and approximately three years of military service, he entered the Master's program of Architecture at Columbia University in New York City in 2006. In 2008, he began his career as an architect at Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and continued his stellar architectural career through the offices of Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), Fernando Romero Enterprise (FR-EE), and REX.

Since 2014, he has been working independently at a small workshop in Brooklyn, New York, and embarked upon his first solo gallery show in September 2016.

"I couldn't find my own voice as an individual and I wanted to give meaning to my work. I had trouble identifying with the projects I worked on before and I wanted to create meaningful works everyone can understand. I found my roots exploring light and darkness through my sculptures."

- Se Yoon Park





08/22/2014
RV. #4.
HAWZIN.
Light & Darkness
Type A.

빛, 어둠, 선, 색
"양"
"음"

빛 어둠.

self portrait.
Se Yoon.
H.

do you know

Even Light & Darkness

my name
has no power



08/20/2014
RV #4
HAWZIN

too Light
too Darkness

H
A
H
H



08/22/2014
RV. #4.
HAWZIN.
Architectural
compositional
study.
Light & Darkness

too Darkness
too Light.

H. A.

do to light
do to Darkness

H
A

do you know



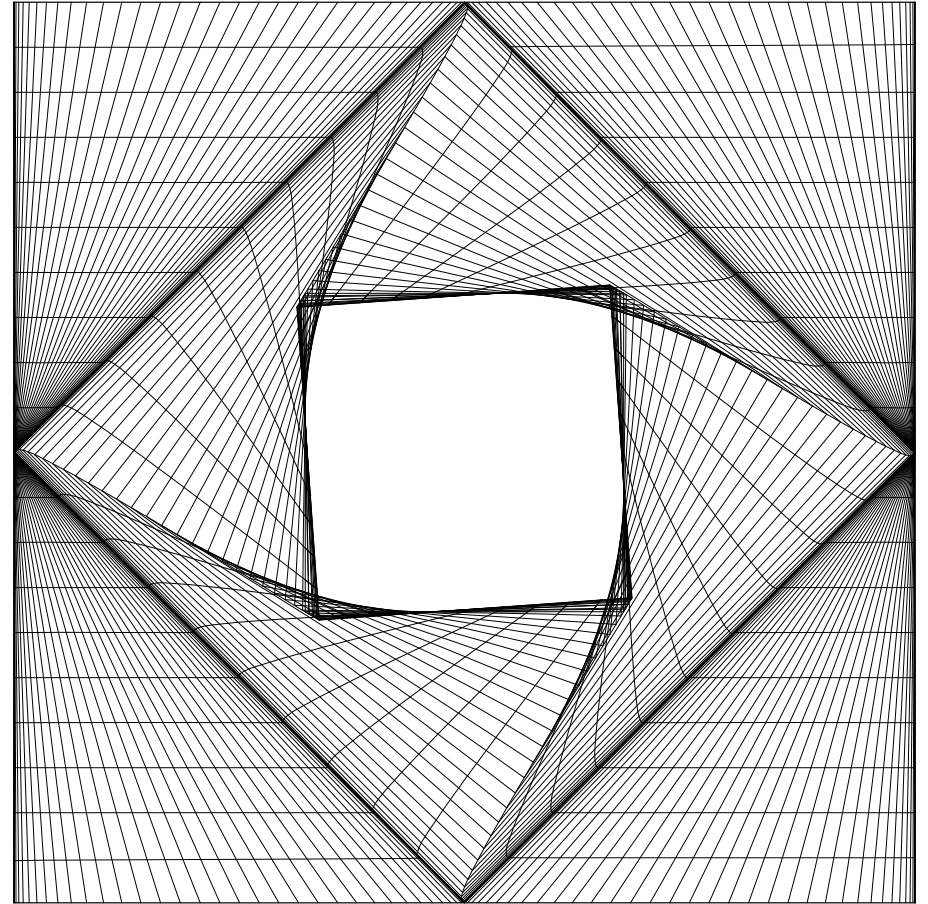
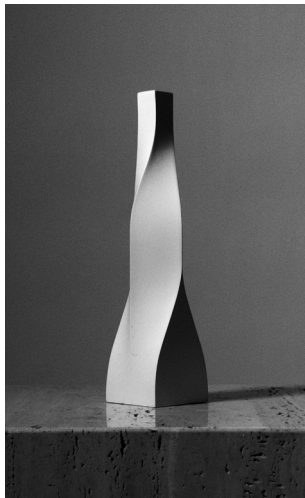
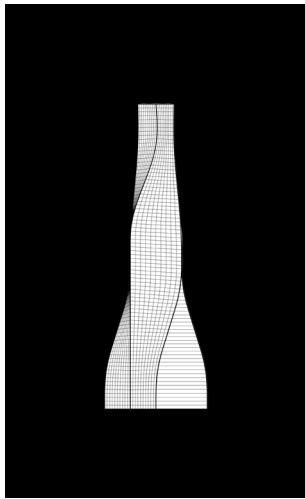
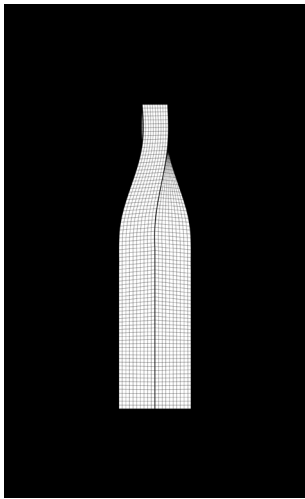
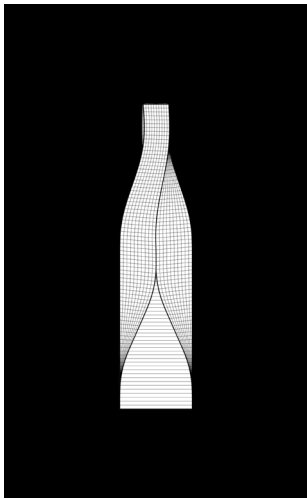
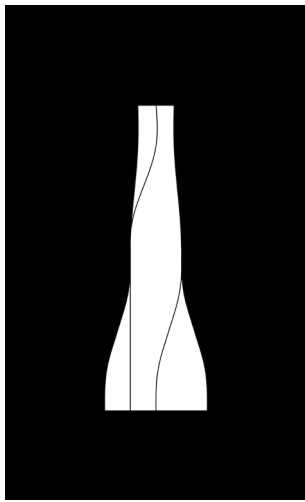
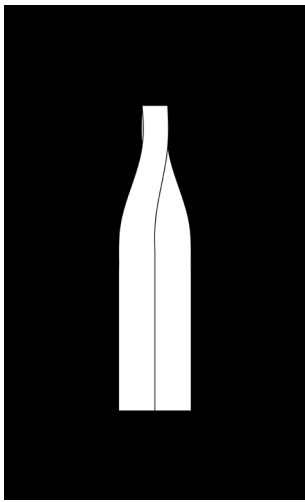
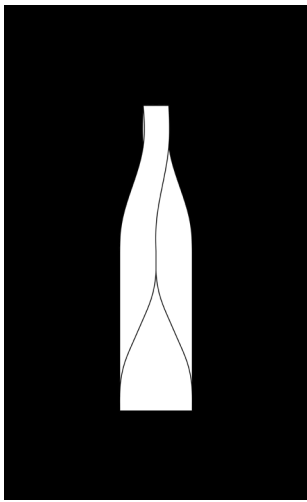
08/20/2014
RV #4
HAWZIN.
Architectural
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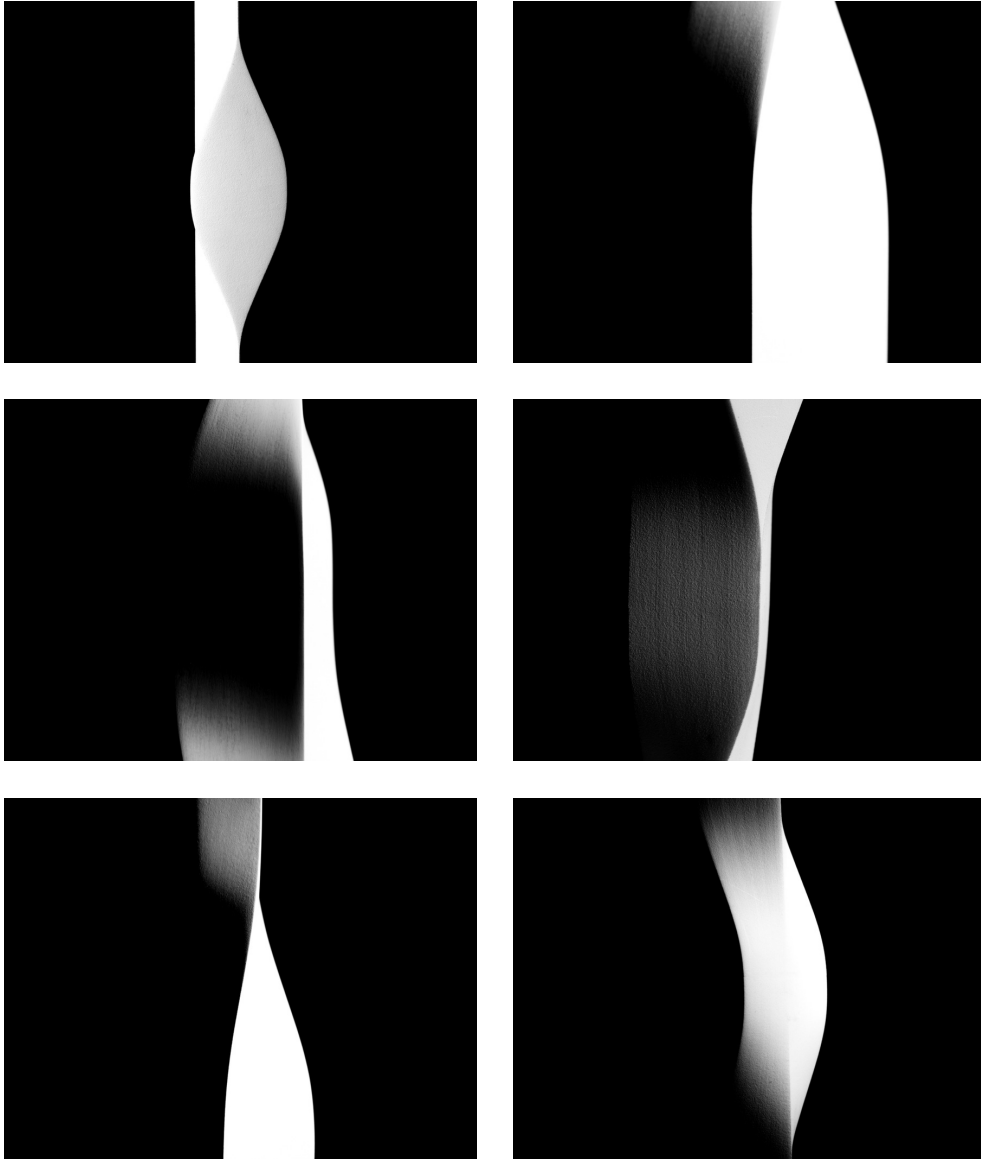


Edge, Surface, Light

Through a reflexive dialogue between analog and digital, the shape is formed such that more and more information is revealed as the volume is developed and exposed to its surroundings and light.

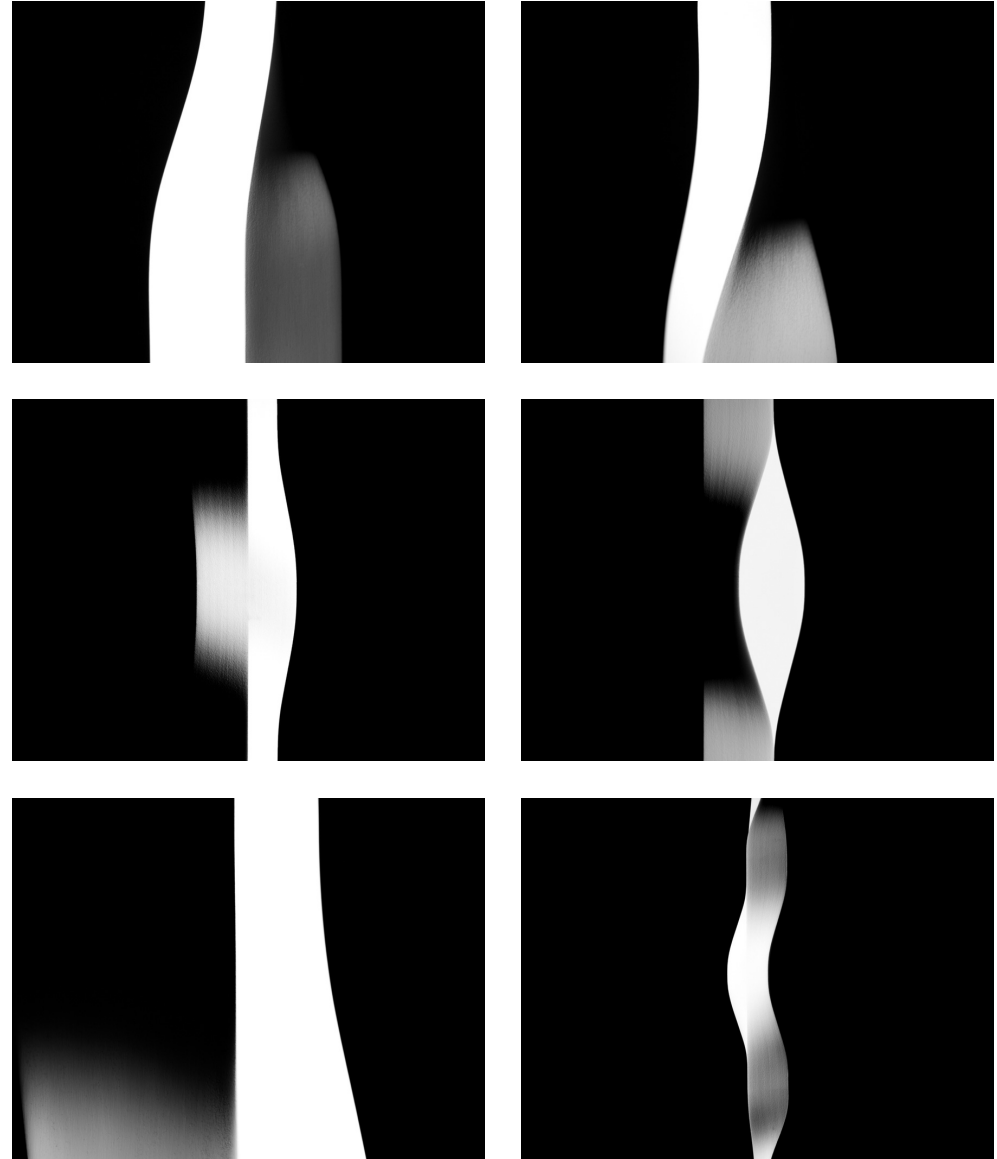
Studies in Light

The form was developed to capture light along its surfaces, taking on new identities as it interacts with changing light.



Studies in Darkness

As light escapes a region of the sculpture to embrace another, it leaves portions of the form in darkness, ever transitioning.





Mold-Making & Casting

Using digital information from the three-dimensional models, a highly precise set of rubber molds is created. The mold is clamped together, leaving the shape of the desired sculpture in the negative space between.



Refinement & Fitting

After removal from the cast, the individual parts of the sculpture are meticulously sanded and recalibrated by hand to ensure a perfect fit for assembly, compensating for shrinkage during production.





Assembly

After hand-dyeing, the parts are ready to be assembled. The form lends itself to a unique twist and tighten function, securing the parts in place without the need for additional bonding media.



Lighting & Installation

LED bulbs are inserted into specific parts of the tree and wired through the branches and trunk. On installation upon the root, the tree is complete and glows in its beauty.





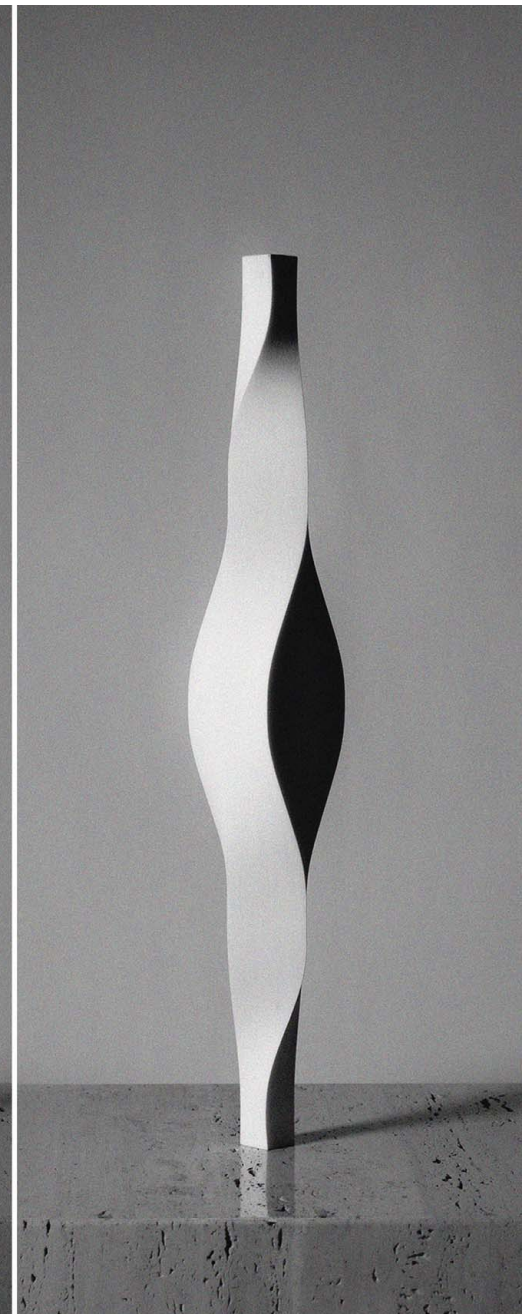
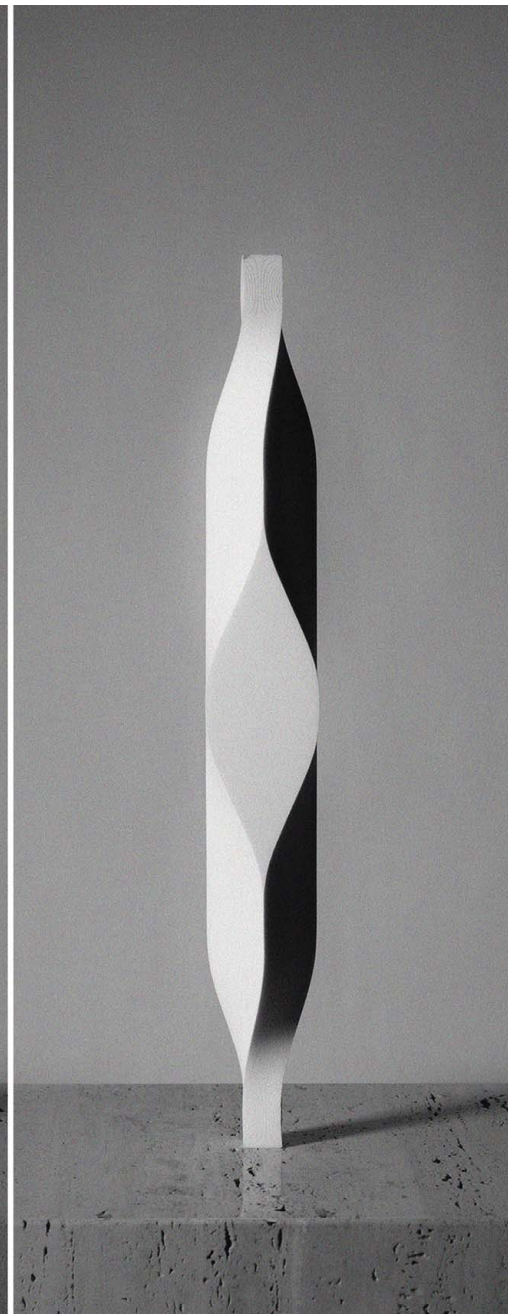
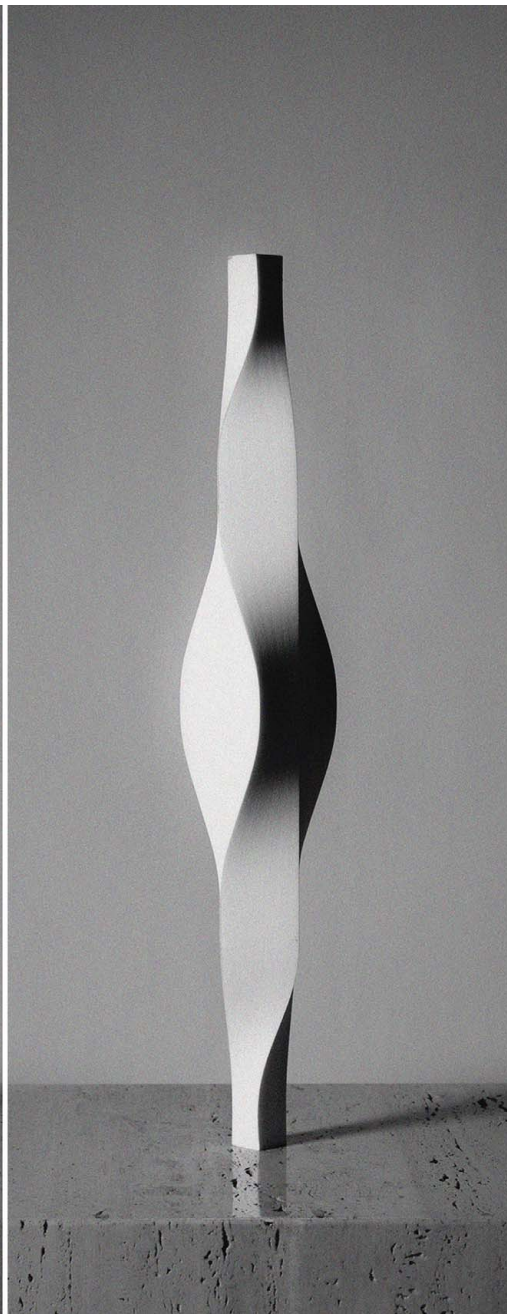
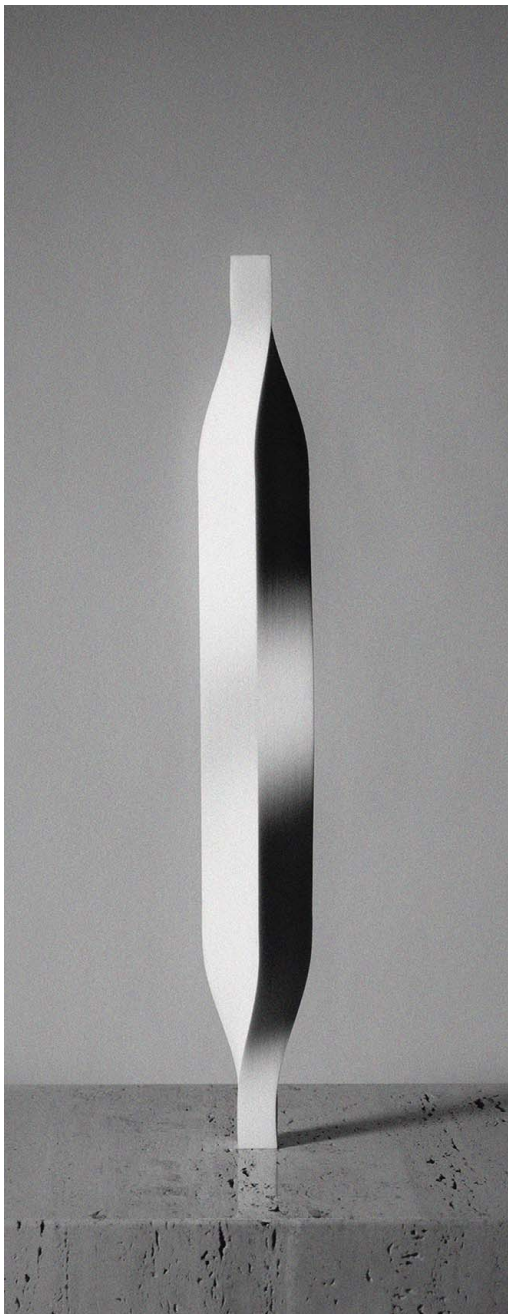
About the Work

Light and Darkness captures movement within stillness – deceptively simple, one realizes upon scrutiny the complexity of the shape, and its stubborn elusion of comprehension in two dimensions. The surface contorts, splits, disappears into edges, every view differing ever so slightly from the one before. Set under a natural skylight, the changing position of the sun sets the work into motion, making one believe it is alive.

In *And Tree of Life*, Park aggregates multiple units of Light and Darkness in a bond-free cantilevered system, creating an assembly of parts in delicate equilibrium. The tree exists as an allegory for life, and in its structural and visual ephemerality demonstrates the passage of time encased in the transition of light.

The main medium being light and darkness, the work is realized in a variety of materials, each exploited for their inherent materiality. Wood, steel, and Polyurethane Resin perform to their structural strengths, while Ceramic and 3D printed Polyamide are employed to capture and diffuse the light on their own terms, providing an array of canvasses for Park to experiment on as he introduces color into his vocabulary with medium specific surface treatments.

A labor of love and self-expression, *Light, Darkness, and the Tree* is a perpetual work in progress, a work of ever increasing complexity and refinement. The work and the artist breathe together, growing with every iteration.



**100114 ARCHITECTURAL MASS STUDY 03
LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE B**

polyamide
H 44" x W3" x D 3"
2014



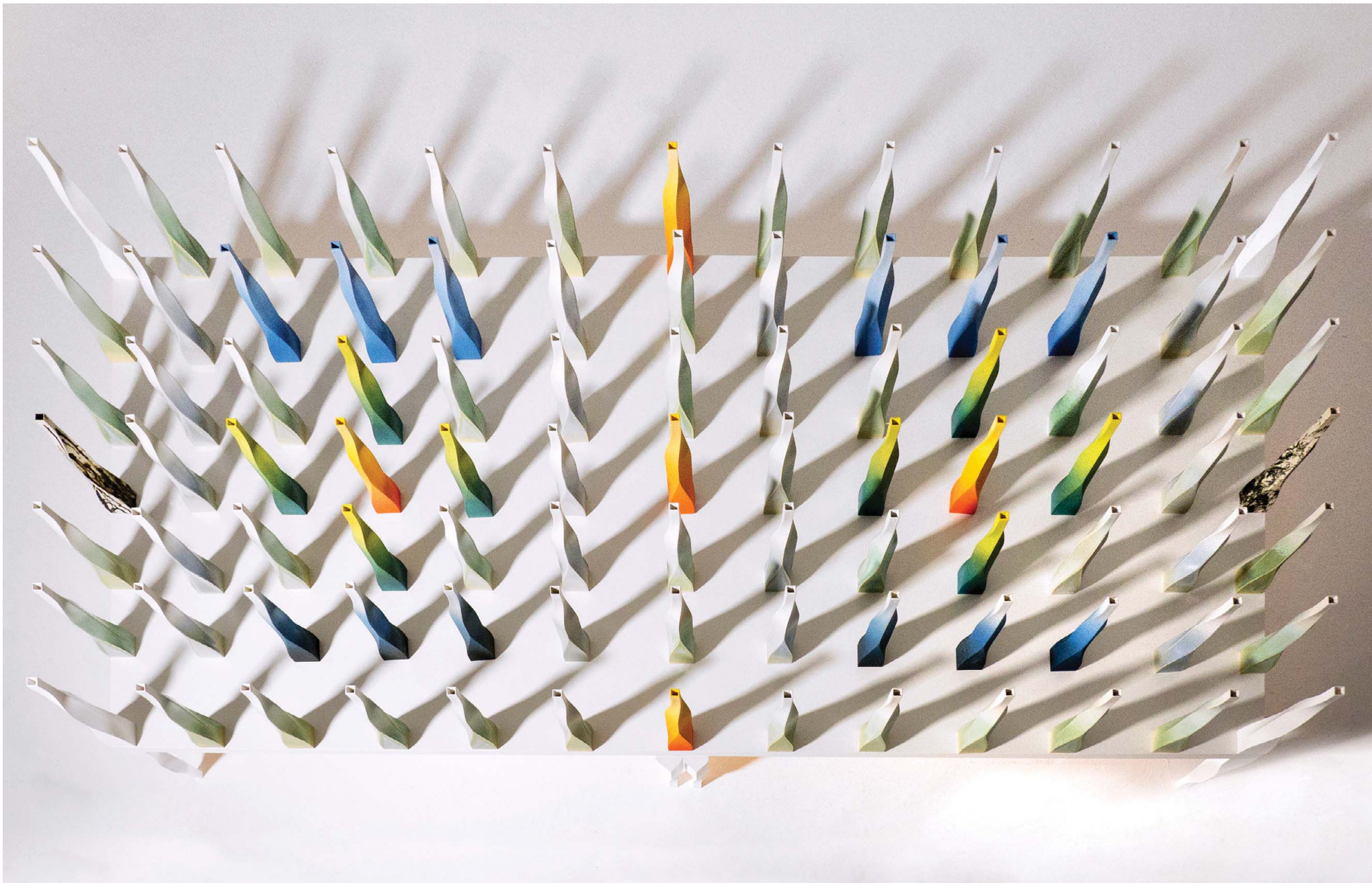
**072616 AND TREE OF LIFE
COMPOSITIONAL STUDY EIGHT
WABISABI ASYMMETREE**

polymide, maple, LED
H 84" x W34" x D 19"
2016



**081015 AND TREE OF LIFE
COMPOSITIONAL STUDY FOUR
INFINITE SYMMETREE**

polymide, maple, LED
H 83" x W36" x D 36"
2015



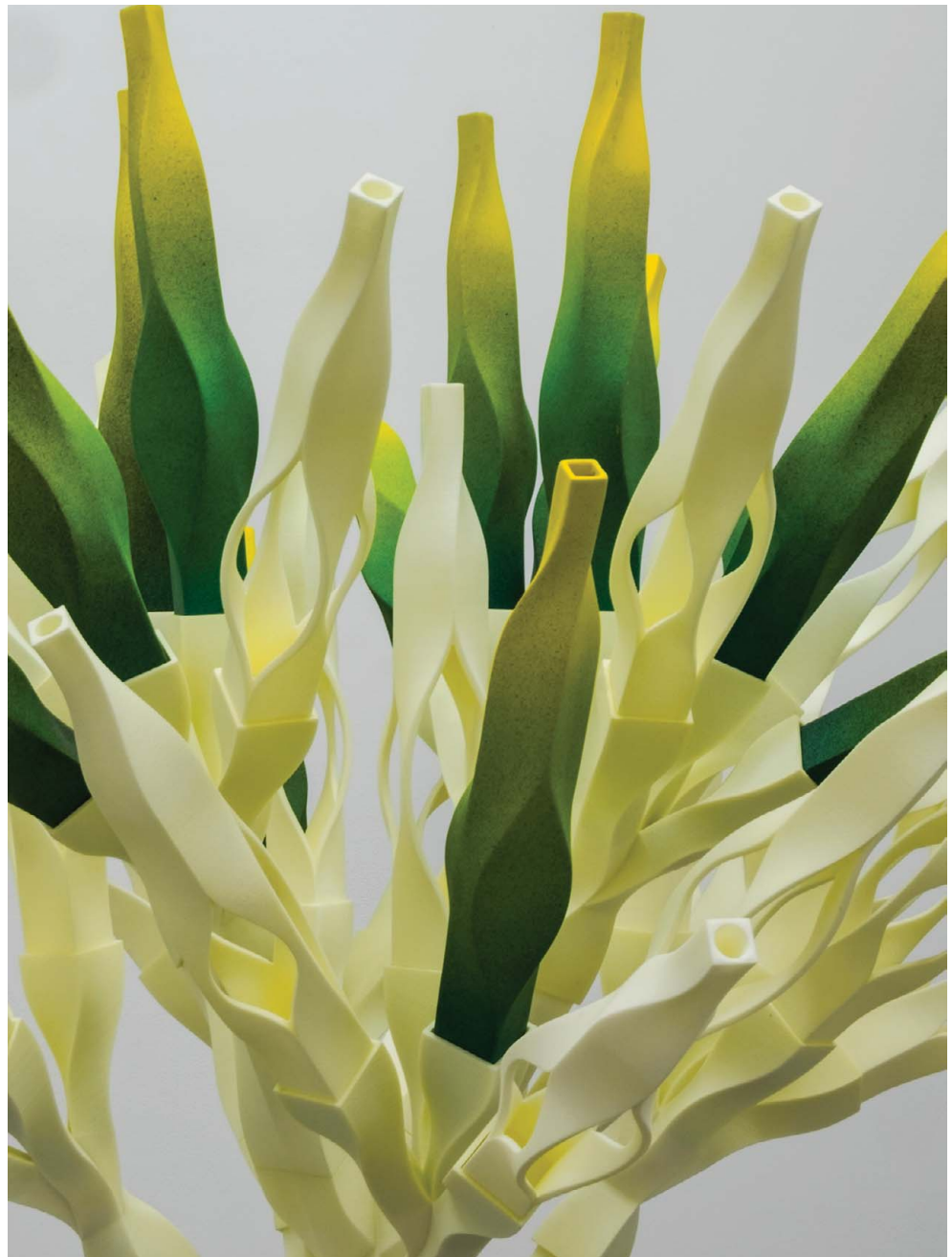
080115 AND LIGHT AND DARKNESS
LIFE EQUALS SEVEN MULTIPLE BY THIRTEEN

stoneware, polyurethane resin, wood
H 25" x W 59" x D 119"
2015



**100114 AND TREE OF LIFE
LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE B**

stoneware
H 44" x W3" x D 3"
2014



033116 AND TREE OF LIFE
COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE

polimide, stoneware, maple
H 82" x W60" x D 29"
2016



**080115 AND LIGHT AND DARKNESS
LIFE EQUALS SEVEN MULTIPLE BY THIRTEEN**

stoneware, polyurethane resin, wood
H 25" x W59" x D 119"
2015

Credits

Assistants:

Vladislav Markov, Kelly Koh, David Temann Lu, Ramon Rivera, Kara Moats,
Insil Jang

Contributors:

Nadeige Choplet @ Choplet Ceramic Gallery and Studio, Michael Perrotta @
Sculpture House Casting, Osumundo Echevarria @ Osumondo Studio, Kieran
Kinsella @ Potter Kinsella Studios, K. Jonathan Park & Craig Pyeunghun
Baik @ THE RED VISUAL, Sammy Suh, Tony Babin, I.materialise,
Shapeways, Makerbot, Sculpteo, 3D Hubs, Parker Steel, Oren Sheerit @ 3D
R'US Inc, William Lapierre @ Mini 3D me, Alex Breitreuts @ iflytailies and
Richard Goldstein @ Goldstein Patent Law

Se Yoon Park

2016

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#001 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A ANXIOUS 01



#002 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A ANXIOUS 02



#003 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A ANXIOUS 03



#004 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A ANXIOUS 04



#005 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A CONFIDENT 01



#006 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A CONFIDENT 02



#007 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A CONFIDENT 03



#008 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A CONFIDENT 04



#009 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A DESIRED 01



#010 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A DESIRED 02



#011 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A DESIRED 03



#012 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A DESIRED 04



#013 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A HOPEFUL 01



#014 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A HOPEFUL 02



#015 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A HOPEFUL 03



#016 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A HOPEFUL 04



#017 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A IMMATURE 01



#018 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A IMMATURE 02



#019 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A IMMATURE 03



#020 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A IMMATURE 04



#021 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A GROUP 01



#022 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A GROUP 02



#023 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A GROUP 03



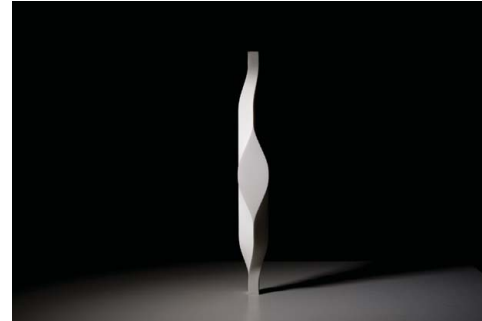
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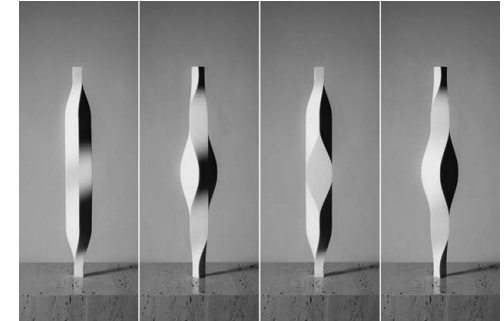
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#026 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A MASS STUDY 02



#027 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A MASS STUDY 01



#028 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE A MASS STUDY 02



#029 / 020115 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY ONE INFINITE SYMMETREE 01



#030 / 020115 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY ONE INFINITE SYMMETREE 02



#031 / 020115 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY ONE INFINITE SYMMETREE 03



#032 / 031016 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY FIVE INFINITE SYMMETREE



#033 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 01



#034 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 02



#035 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 03



#036 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 04



#037 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 05



#038 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 07



#039 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 08



#040 / 033116 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY SIX
AMBIGUOUS SYMMETREE 09



#041 / 081015 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY FOUR
INFINITE SYMMETREE 01



#042 / 081015 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY FOUR
INFINITE SYMMETREE 02



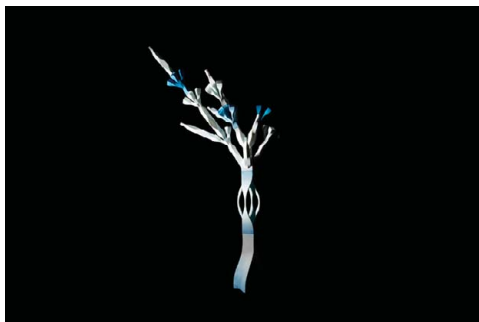
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INFINITE SYMMETREE 03



#044 / 081015 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY FOUR
INFINITE SYMMETREE 04



#045 / 052315 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY TWO
SELF PORTRAIT ASYMMETREE 01



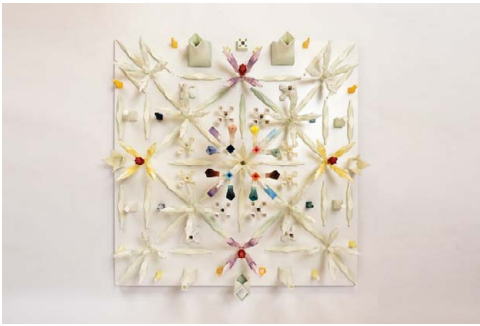
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SELF PORTRAIT ASYMMETREE 02



#047 / 052315 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY TWO
SELF PORTRAIT ASYMMETREE 03



#048 / 052315 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY TWO
SELF PORTRAIT ASYMMETREE 04



#049 / 080615 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY THREE INFIINTE SYMMETREE 01



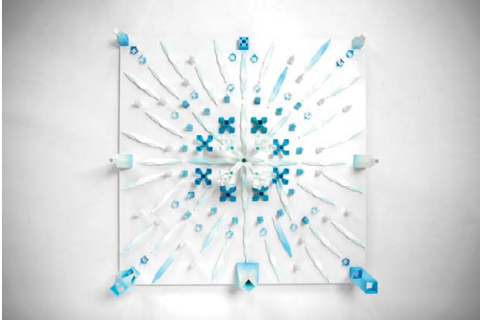
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#051 / 080615 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY THREE INFIINTE SYMMETREE 03



#052 / 080615 AND TREE OF LIFE / COMPOSITIONAL STUDY THREE INFIINTE SYMMETREE 04



#053 / PROCESS / TREE ASSEMBLY 01



#054 / PROCESS / TREE ASSEMBLY 02



#055 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE B SURFACE STUDY 01



#056 / LIGHT AND DARKNESS TYPE B SURFACE STUDY 02



#057 / GALLERY 01



#058 / GALLERY 02



#059 / GALLERY 03



#060 / GALLERY 04



#061 / ASSEMBLY 01



#061 / ASSEMBLY 02



#061 / LIGHTSHOW 01



#061 / LIGHTSHOW 02