

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2022



PRESS CONTACT

Erin Bird, Associate Director of Communications

W: 720-865-3552

M: 810-300-1294

erin.bird@botanicgardens.org

Sammy Seung-min Lee: Taking Root

October 1, 2022 – February 5, 2023



Sammy Seung-min Lee reinvents traditional Korean paper-felting techniques to create cast paper sculptures that explore the immigrant experience, focusing on traditions surrounding home and family. *Sammy Seung-min Lee: Taking Root*, on view October 1, 2022 – February 5, 2023, features her ongoing project *A Very Proper Table Setting* and other works.

Lee creates cast sculptures using “paper skin,” a material felted out of sheets of hanji (a Korean mulberry paper), this material is created by soaking the paper, then pounding, kneading and squeezing it until the fibers interlock and mesh into a thicker, leather-like material.

A Very Proper Table Setting is a series that features a selection of Korean tableware cast in paper. Each table setting was arranged by a community participant while imagining they were preparing a familiar meal for a loved one, using only unfamiliar Korean dishware. Lee then cast the table setting in paper. Through recontextualizing the comfort of a favorite meal with unfamiliar tools, Lee hopes to inspire empathy for the challenges and uncertainty immigrants face.

Taking Root also features Lee's *Street Art Cart*. Inspired by Asian street food carts, the cart acts as a mobile gallery or art studio, featuring *A Very Proper Table Setting* in its making.

Sammy Seung-min Lee is a Colorado-based artist, born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. She studied fine art and media art at University of California, Los Angeles and architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A recent resident artist at Redline Contemporary Art Center, Lee serves as an ambassador for Asian art at the Denver Art Museum and operates a contemporary art project and residency space called Collective SML | k. Lee's work is held in museum collections including the Getty Research Institute, Denver Art Museum, Spencer Museum of Art, and the Spanish National Library in Madrid.

RBC Wealth Management is the presenting sponsor of Denver Botanic Gardens' 2022 art exhibitions.

RELATED PROGRAM

Artist Talk: Sammy Seung-min Lee & Fall Exhibitions Reception

Friday, October 7 – reception: 5-7:30 p.m.; artist talk: 6 p.m.

Free with advance registration

Sammy Seung-min Lee will talk about how she explores and shares cultural identity through her art.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to view two botanical illustration exhibitions *Seeing Red: Botanical Art & Illustration* and *Abundant Future: Cultivating Diversity in Garden, Farm and Field*.

#

Image credit: Sammy Seung-min Lee, *A Very Proper Table Setting* (detail), hanji (Korean mulberry paper), ongoing series, 2017-present.

About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class exhibitions, education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.