

Yong Joo Kim

Artiststatement

„For me, making art is a way of exploring this simple yet complex question.

I focus primarily on a single material of choice: hook and loop fasteners. The choice to create jewelry out of an inexpensive material often considered unattractive and mundane was originally inspired by two reasons. On the one hand, it was to survive financially by keeping material costs down. On the other hand, it was to challenge my ability to survive in a field known for its use of attractive and precious materials. What I have since learned is that the creative process is also something that requires survival.

In the creative process, we often get stuck. When we do, we feel as if there is a finite limit to our ability to create. To survive the creative process is to continue to feel alive when we get stuck by not giving up. To do this, we must be able to embrace and appropriately respond to a variety of unpleasant surprises, so as to overcome them. What's pleasantly surprising about this is that when we do, we often end up with art that defies our imagination. Art that provides us with experiences of sublime, inspiration, and beauty, which helps us realize that there still exists infinite possibilities. I wish to share these experiences with those who witness or wear my work.“