

# ARTIST STATEMENT

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I have investigated human existence in the physical and psychological aspects by integrating traditional art-making techniques with experimental video and interactivity. In 2006, I started gestural and representative figure paintings of myself engaged in the habits and everyday rituals of private domestic existence. By drawing, tracing, and mapping yarn as a metaphor of human traces, I have developed a body of yarn paintings to discover the awakening moments as self-awareness of one's existence, a transitional state of consciousness and human perception of reality and dreams.

As an expansion of my art practice from painting to digital media, since 2010, I have continuously inquired about human existence based on empirical experimentations using the human body as a site to understand and experience the outside world. Based on my visual training through painting, I pay attention to sensuous qualities of videos to increase the power of transformation in digital media. I investigated the ambiguity and absurdity of human existence in existentialism and made a series of *Red Tracing* videos using red yarn as a metaphor of a linear and material representation of continuous existence, a representation of flowing time and of blood and lifespan. From existential anxiety to a fundamental inquiry into being and time, I examined various perceptions of time, such as meteorological time, geological time, floating time, and private time, through a series of empirical experimentations with the human body.

As a psychological investigation of human existence, I have been interested in how the human body can “speak itself” to express unconscious, repressed, or unfulfilled desires by observing what appear to be meaningless body actions. In a series of *Desiring Bodies* videos, I investigated the complex relationships between the human body and desires and captured the oral mechanics of the mouth by performing simple tasks. *Unfulfilled Desires* is composed of two videos, which capture hyper details of a tongue performing a pair of tasks: consuming a lollipop with a repetitive licking action and consuming an unending stream of honey dripping from a sword. Through boundless acts of consumption, I expressed that desire could not be fulfilled upon the completion of a task, nor could desire be satiated through infinite supply.

Currently, I am investigating human existence by exploring dynamic human relationships and private/public space through body performances. My *Intimate Distances* project is an ongoing participatory performance in which two people close their eyes for 3 minutes and keep the closest distance by not trying to touch each other, and it has been developed in various locations, such as South Korea, Hungary, Winston-Salem, NC, and Santa Fe, NM. This project aims to capture the psychological “intimate moments” from the closest physical distance and to emphasize that intimate human relationships have a power of transformation to define who we are. My *Bedroom* project is an ongoing psychological performance to question private space regarding control, participation, and boundaries. *Can You Change My Bedroom?* in Gainesville, FL, is to explore the sense of control over surroundings in private space, so I lived in my bedroom with four different rearrangements, which were changed by others every weekend, and recorded my experience via “self-interview.” *Can You Change My Bedroom?* in Rockville, MD, is to transform an artist's studio from a private/closed space to a public/open space, so I changed my studio with physical labor based on participants' arrangements, like a work order, in which people changed furniture and objects in a virtual bedroom via the online game. *Bedroom Without Walls* is to question the boundary between private and public space, so I installed my bedroom furniture and personal belongings in parking lots in Rockville and had various interactions with people when they passed by or encountered my bedroom in the parking lots.

My future research will continue investigating human existence from various perspectives by questioning what is known and unknown, available and unavailable as well as simultaneously concealing/revealing meanings through the human body.