

Sowon Joo

**JEWELRY**





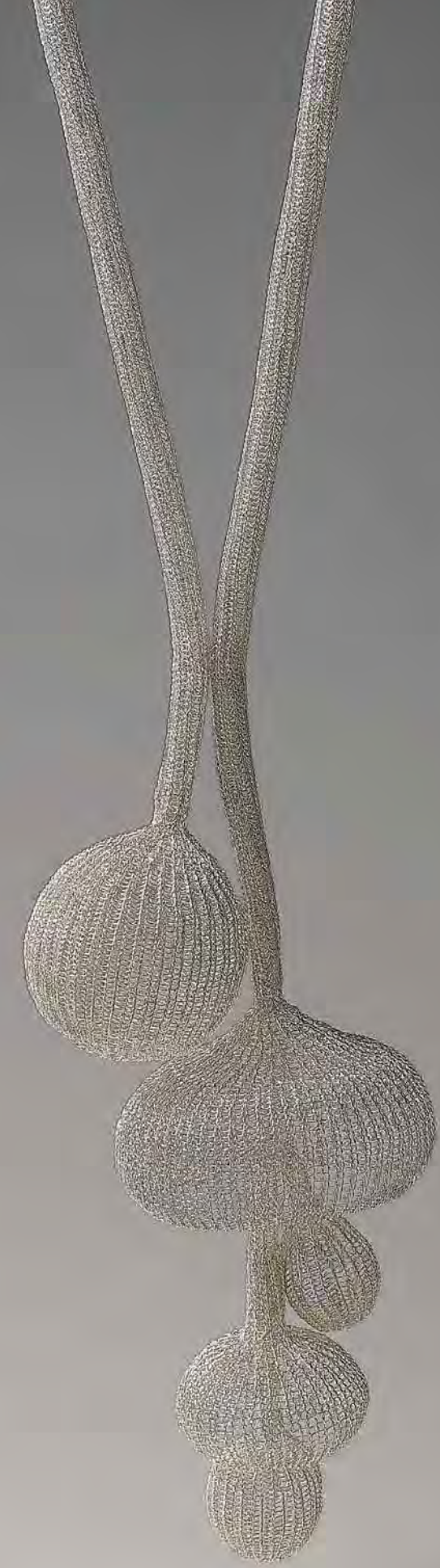
Blooming necklace, rings sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver 550x450x700mm



Necklace sterling silver 550x450x700mm

Ring sterling silver







Necklace argentium silver 550x450x700mm



from the seed sterling silver 310x130x60mm



Bouncing necklace sterling silver, rutilated quartz



Fruition necklace sterling silver 320x150x40mm



Fruition necklace sterling silver 365x140x50mm



## Jewelry of wonder and miraculousness discovered in life process of birth and circulation

Ha, Kyehoon (art critic, professor, Dankook University)

Decorating themselves with clothing, jewelry, and makeup, for which people have an instinctive taste for maximizing their attractiveness, they expect to have recognition, respect, and attraction from others' eyes and have desire to gain joy and happiness from them. And, the jewelry was certainly one of the representative ways used for satisfying these desires.

Historically wearing jewelry by humans goes back to the Old Stone Age. During this age, most of the jewelry was made with materials that did not require any particular process, but were just ordinary materials easily found around the nature, including bones or teeth of animals, bird feathers, or sea shells. Rather than used as ornaments or decorations for the purpose nowadays, these jewelry during this age were served as incantatory symbols. During the Middle Ages, religious men wore the cross around their necks and wore rings stating one's authority within churches. Similarly, the Kings also wore rings as one of the many specific ornaments symbolizing one's authority and power. The jewelry during this age was surely designed to serve religious, incantatory or political purposes, but their aesthetic art perspectives were not completely dismissed.

Sowon Joo has not only worked on jewelry using metals, but participated in other kinds of art genres including painting, installation and media. But, her major attention focuses on metal artworks, and her works in other genres could be served as their self-artistic expressive values and supporting roles to set off together with her metal artworks. Through this exhibition, Sowon shows her metal-kind jewelry, and to be more specific, she focuses on the artworks that show in forms of organic shapes and effects using lines through handworks, yet preserve original properties of materials above metal's inherited property of mass and weight.

In the aspect of this exhibition's theme, Sowon focuses on working on visual shapes of moments based on life passages, the subject Sowon has pursued consistently. In particular, she reflects her artworks on the theme of motherhood which could naturally intrigue her interest as a female artist. The materials that reveal her miraculousness and wonder about her contemplation of life's birth and growth are mostly from plants including seeds, fruits, and buds. And, these kinds of life motives also in this exhibition are expressed through shapes of eggs, buds, and other life symbolic shapes together with lines woven from silver wire.

Silver has been highlighted etymologically with two major characteristics that are the metal's white color and its ability to reflect lights, and in addition, the metal has certain attributes working as catalysis for chemical reaction and transmitting efficiently heat and electric current. In this sense, silver can be recognized as a symbolic material that copes well with concept of connection or communication coexisting with its natural beauty. Thus, this property of silver moderately justifies Sowon's expression through her silver line artworks for her attempt to communicate and create mutual understanding with people while searching for answers of life passages.

Her artworks woven from silver strings for this exhibition well portray a naïve feeling from silver's light gray color, gloss partially reflected from its surface, and a miraculous feeling from light and colors captured inside round shapes that are woven from a silver metallic mineral in form of lines. Most of silver artworks are small in size because of its relative expensive price and its rarity, but taking egg or spore-like shapes can inflate volume of artworks. Her artworks can be condensed in a mood created by occupying spaces for artworks on users' bodies by wearing, and together with a variety of meanings and symbols all of above may take into account.

The artworks displayed in this exhibition show us their high degree of completion and work density. This jewelry woven with silver wires as if knitted with thread embrace feelings of elegance, dignity, and naïvetés that silver can give impressions about, and enable us to understand and read the artist's thoughts and memories that she had during formation of each artwork. For this jewelry were made with high caution and sensitivity, the artist concerns about possible occasions that these artworks could be easily damaged. The artist says that this kind of fragile condition well represents a vulnerable state of fragile and valuable life needs protection from possible threat that one may experience while being conceived and until its growth.

When one wears a metal jewelry like silver, it can temporarily give others a cold feeling. However, as time goes by, and as the body temperature can be passed onto the jewelry, both can create a sense of oneness. Considered that the contact surface can deliver the body temperature and simultaneously pass potential energy flow down to body, Sowon's jewelry artworks do not complete by themselves, but can be made as artwork through harmony and balance with human bodies, and by uniting with jewelry as if it were a part of body, the artwork can be recognized completed.

As recognized in a long history of jewelry, we cannot ignore its meanings and functions within our lives. The process of jewelry making created by the artist's hands that is being far more amplified and completed through aesthetic and social meanings stored within artworks than just wearing artworks can be metaphorically compared to the process of a life being conceived and fostered. In this exhibition, I hope Sowon can successfully create a mutual communication with people on the answers of miraculousness and wonder about a life form from birth to growth presented and resolved through her artworks by silver wire.



Shell brooch sterling silver 100x100x30mm



Blossom earrings sterling silver 50x10x70, 55x90x15mm



Earrings sterling silver



Brooch sterling silver



Bracelet sterling silver, raw diamond



Brooch sterling silver



Brooch sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver



Bracelet sterling silver, raw diamond





Blooming brooch sterling silver, rutilated quartz



Brooch sterling silver, quartz



Earrings sterling silver(oxidized)



Brooch sterling silver(oxidized)



Brooch sterling silver



"heart" Brooch sterling silver





Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamonds, color diamond beads



"Heart" Brooch 18k gold, diamond



"heart" Earrings diamonds, 18k yellow gold



Brooch sterling silver(oxidized), 18k yellow gold

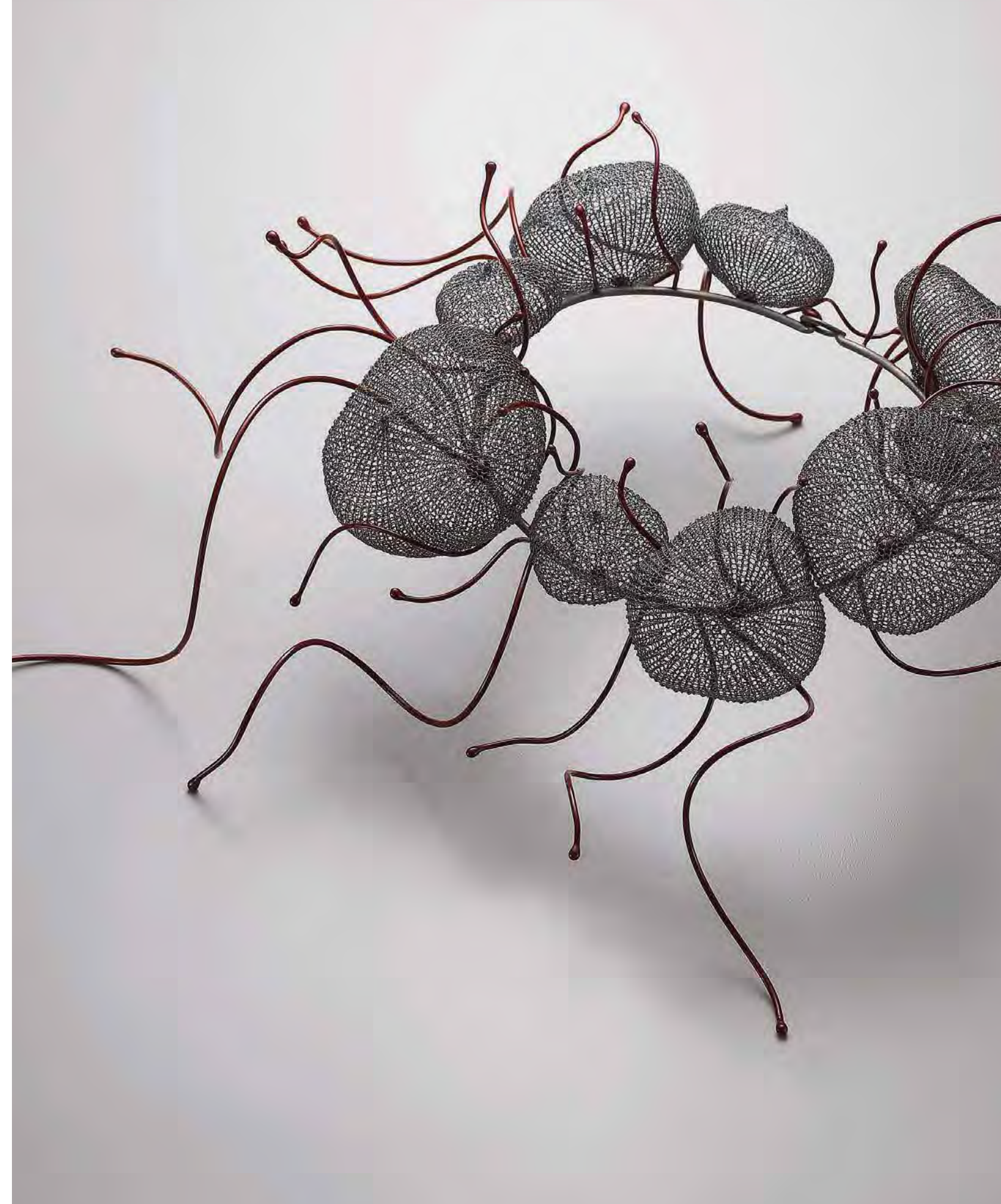
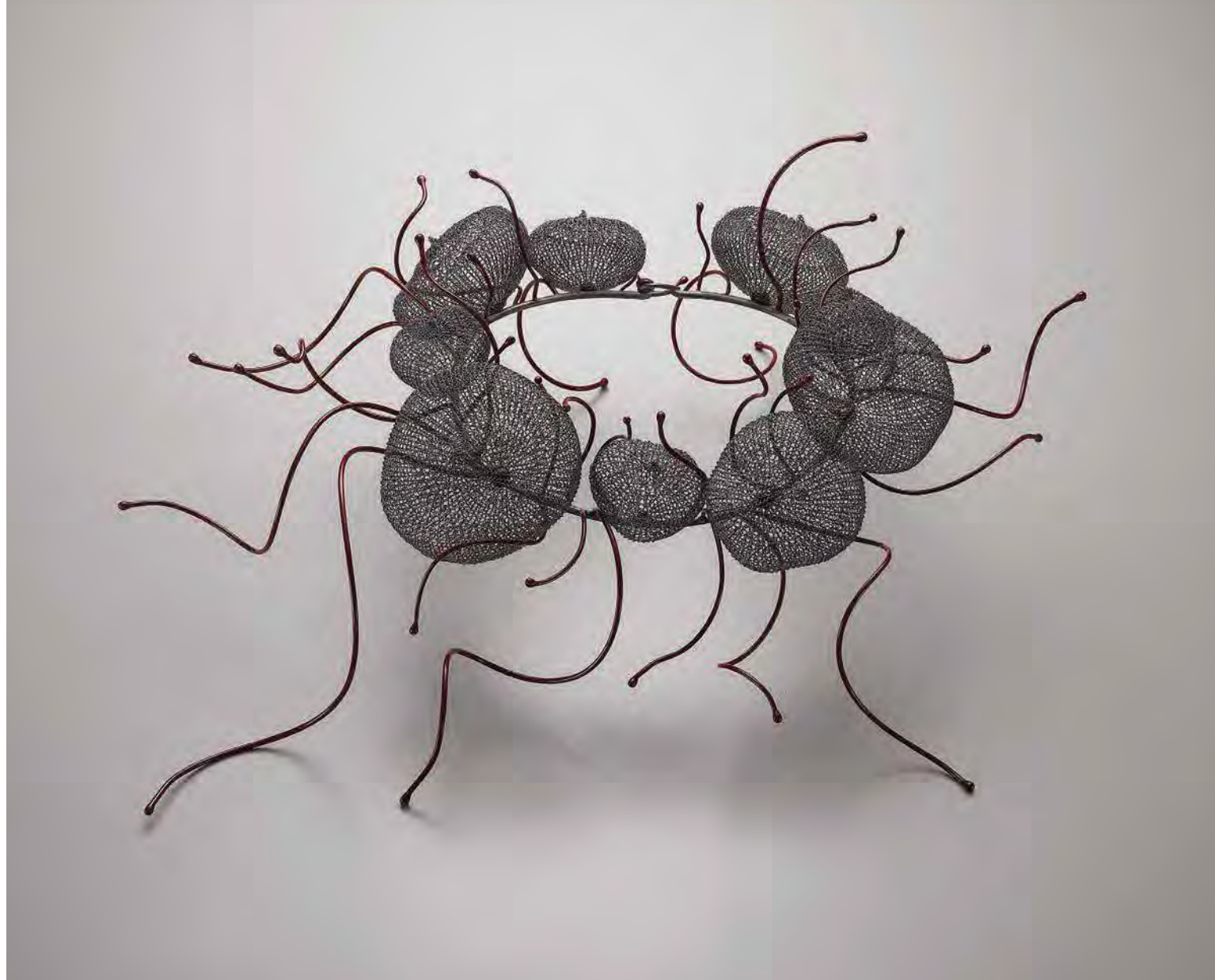


Brooch sterling silver





Necklace sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)



Necklace sterling silver (etchil-borcan traditional loquer)

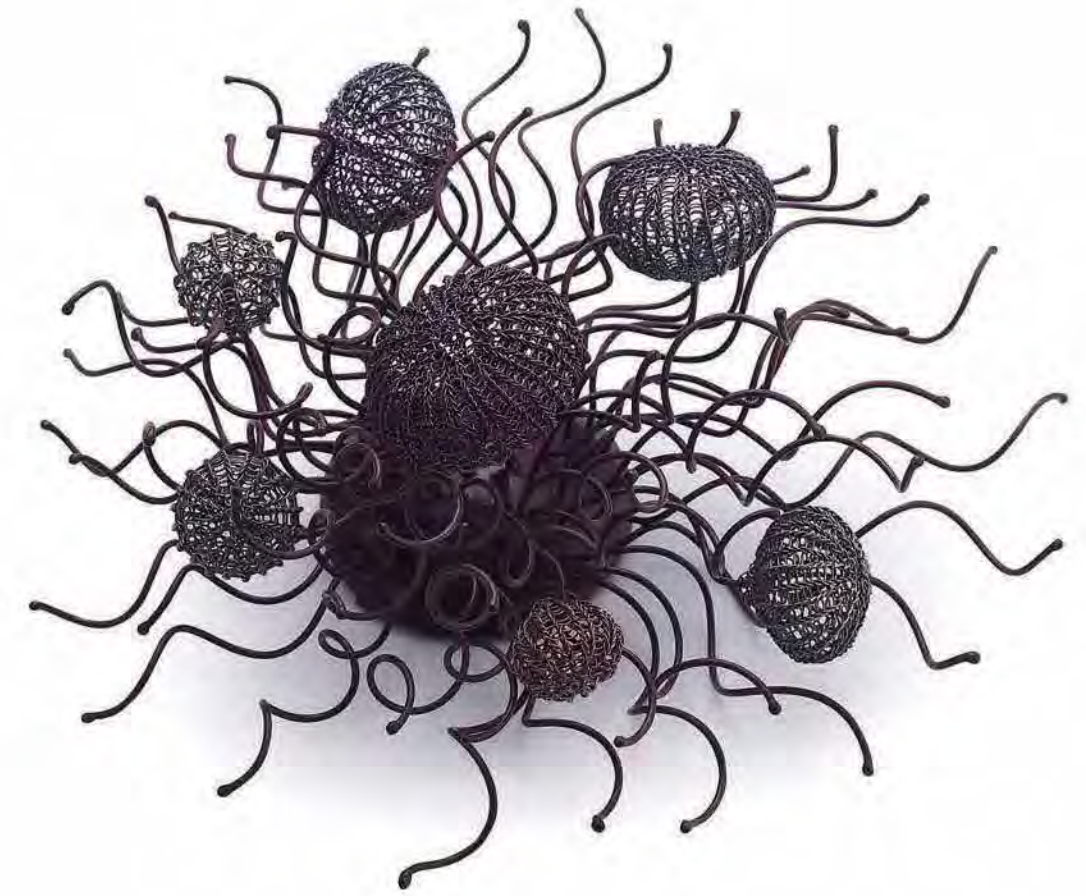


Earrings sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)



Brooch sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)





Brooch sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)



Brooch sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)



Brooch sterling silver



Brooch sterling silver, otchil (korean traditional lacquer)



Ring sterling silver, fresh water pearls



Brooch sterling silver, 24k gold leaf



Ring sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, garnet



Ring sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, garnet



Ring sterling silver (oxidized), garnet



Earrings sterling silver (oxidized), black diamond



Brooch sterling silver (oxidized), black diamond



"Baby in the womb" Brooch sterling silver (oxidized), pearl



"Babies in the womb" Brooch sterling silver (oxidized), pearl



Earrings sterling silver, 24k gold leaf



Necklace sterling silver, 24k gold leaf





Earrings sterling silver, quartz



Ring sterling silver, quartz



Brooch sterling silver, quartz



Earrings sterling silver, argentum silver



Earrings sterling silver, argentum silver



Ring sterling silver, argentum silver



At the end of the branch brooch sterling silver, rutiliated quartz

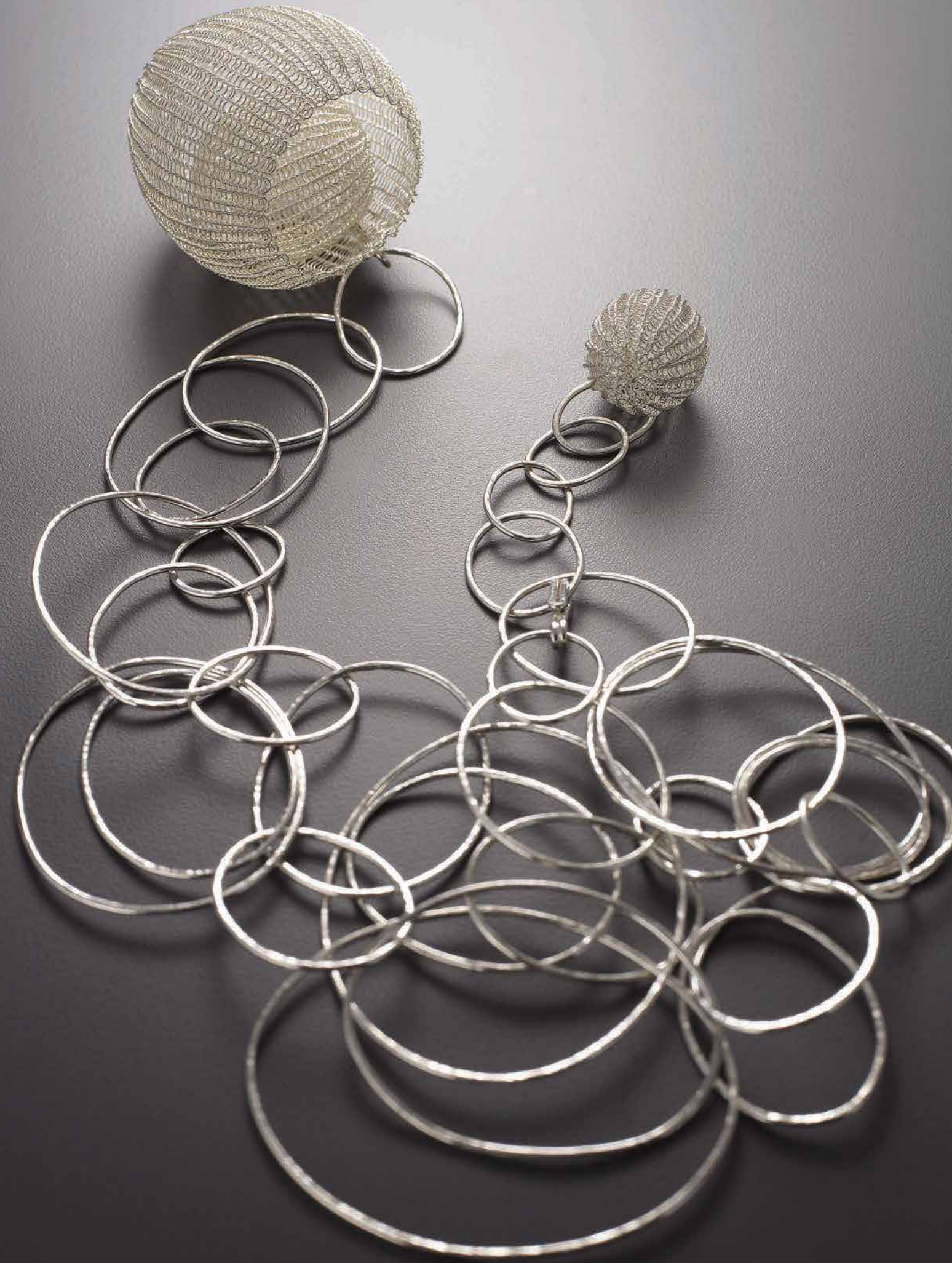
Necklace sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver





Necklace sterling silver

Necklace sterling silver, enamel wire





Necklaces sterling silver, fine silver, enamel wire





Necklace sterling silver



"Pebbles" necklace sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver 440x35x35mm





Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamonds



Necklace 18k yellow gold



Necklace 18k yellow gold

Brooches sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, diamonds  
18k yellow gold, diamonds





Bracelet 18k yellow gold, diamonds, color diamond beads





Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamonds, color diamond beads



Ring 18k yellow gold, diamond, color diamond beads



Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamonds, pearls



Ring sterling silver, 18k gold, green quartz, raw diamond  
18k gold, diamond, raw diamond

Korean traditional hair pin - sterling silver (gold plated), coral





Korean traditional ornament | sterling silver, coral, amber, jade

Necklace sterling silver, 24k gold leaf





Necklace - sterling silver (yellow gold plate), walnut (lotchi—korean traditional lacquer)

Necklace sterling silver, wood, otchil ( korean traditional lacquer)





Necklace sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver



"Moon" necklace sterling silver





"Leaf" necklace sterling silver



"Vine" bracelet sterling silver, chalcedony



"Rain" earrings sterling silver



"Rain" necklace sterling silver

"Rain" brooch sterling silver



"Blossom" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold



"Leaf" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, diamond





"Carressing" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold



"Cocoon" necklace sterling silver



"Leaf" necklace 18k yellow gold, diamond



"Last leaf" brooch 24k, 22k, 20k, 18k, 14k yellow gold, sterling silver



"Cocoon" necklace 20k, 18k yellow gold

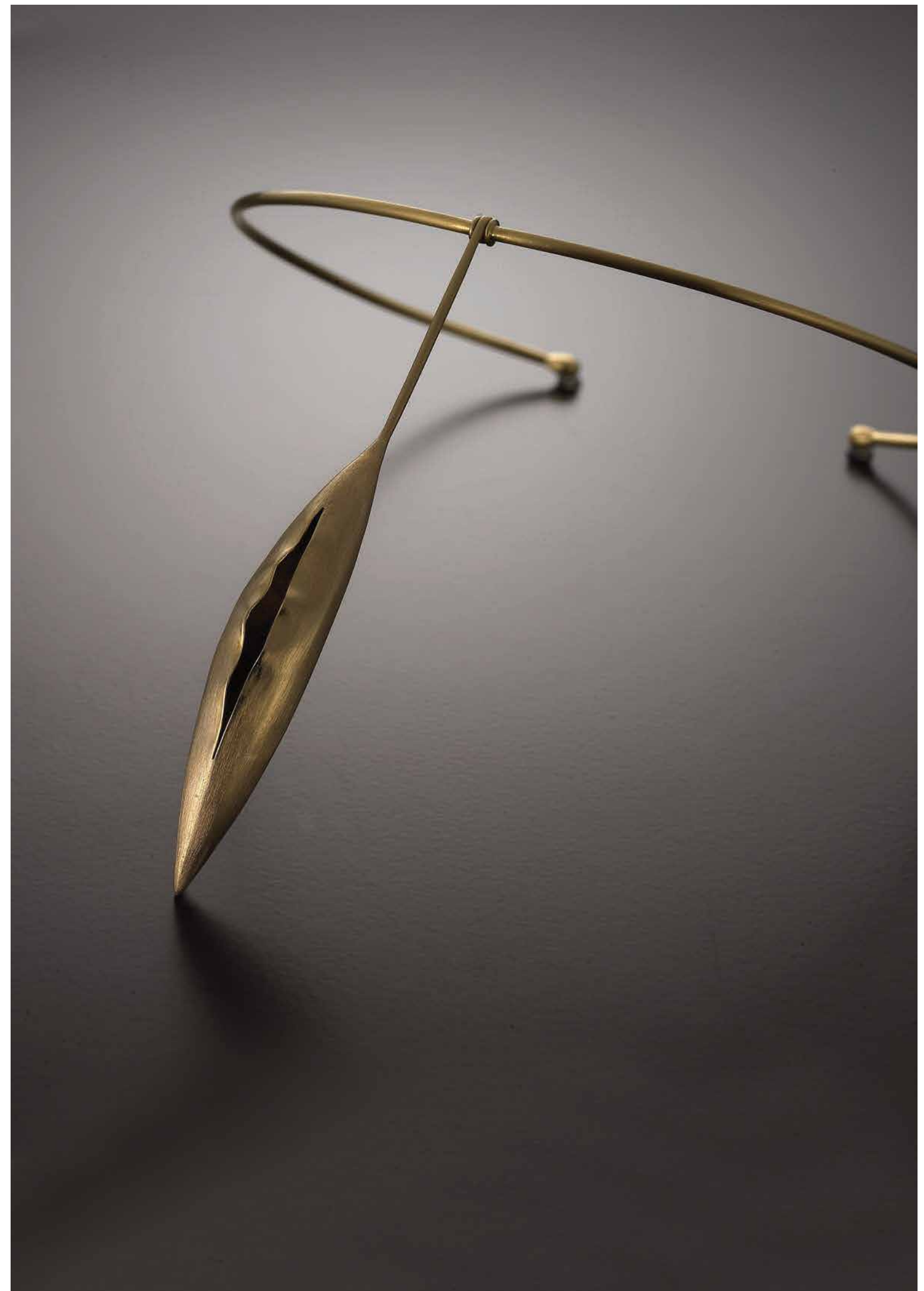


"Pistil" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, diamond



"Buds" necklace 18k yellow gold, diamond





"Cocoon" necklace 18k yellow gold



"Sun" necklace 18k yellow gold





"Leaf" necklace sterling silver, 18k yellow gold

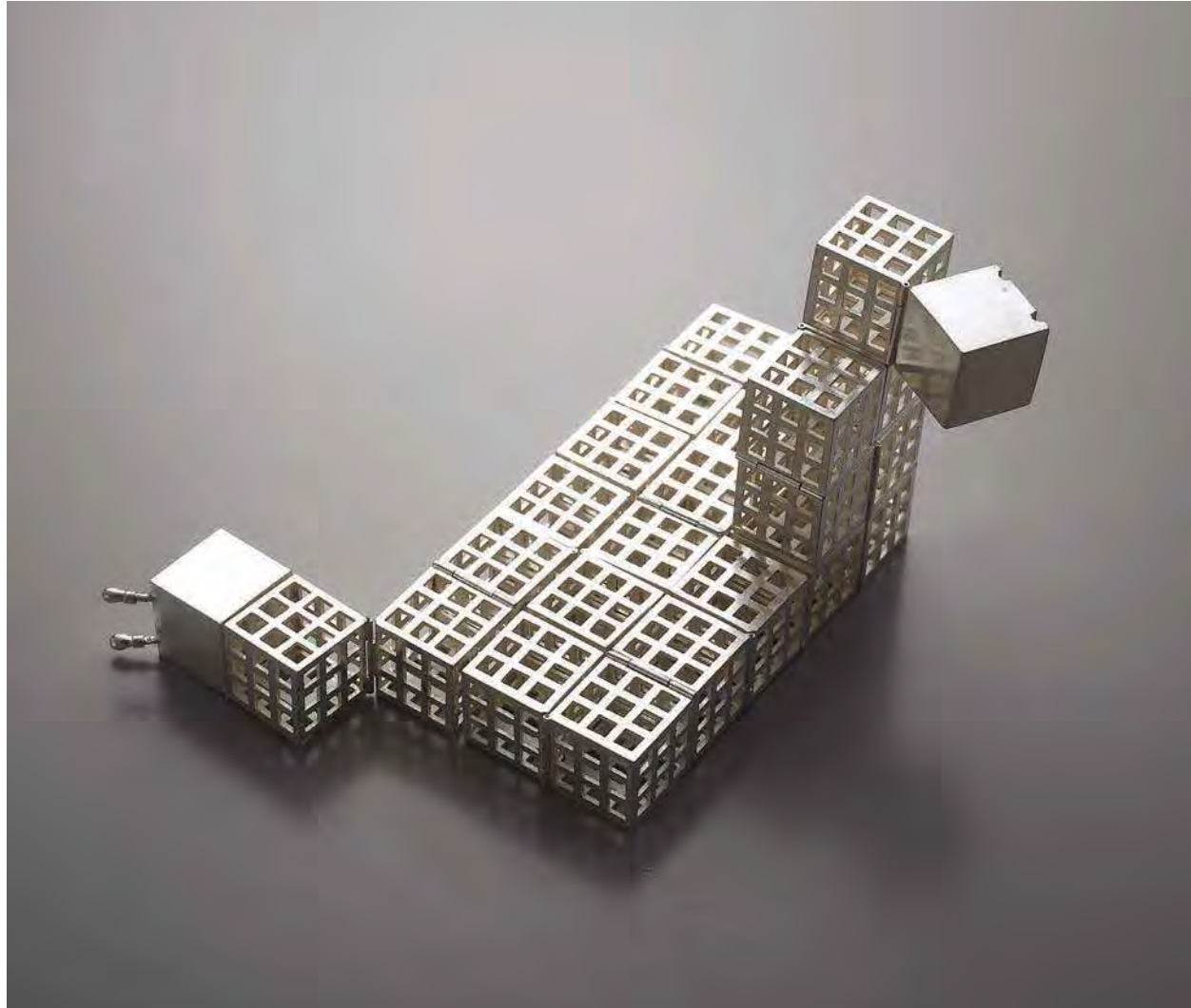




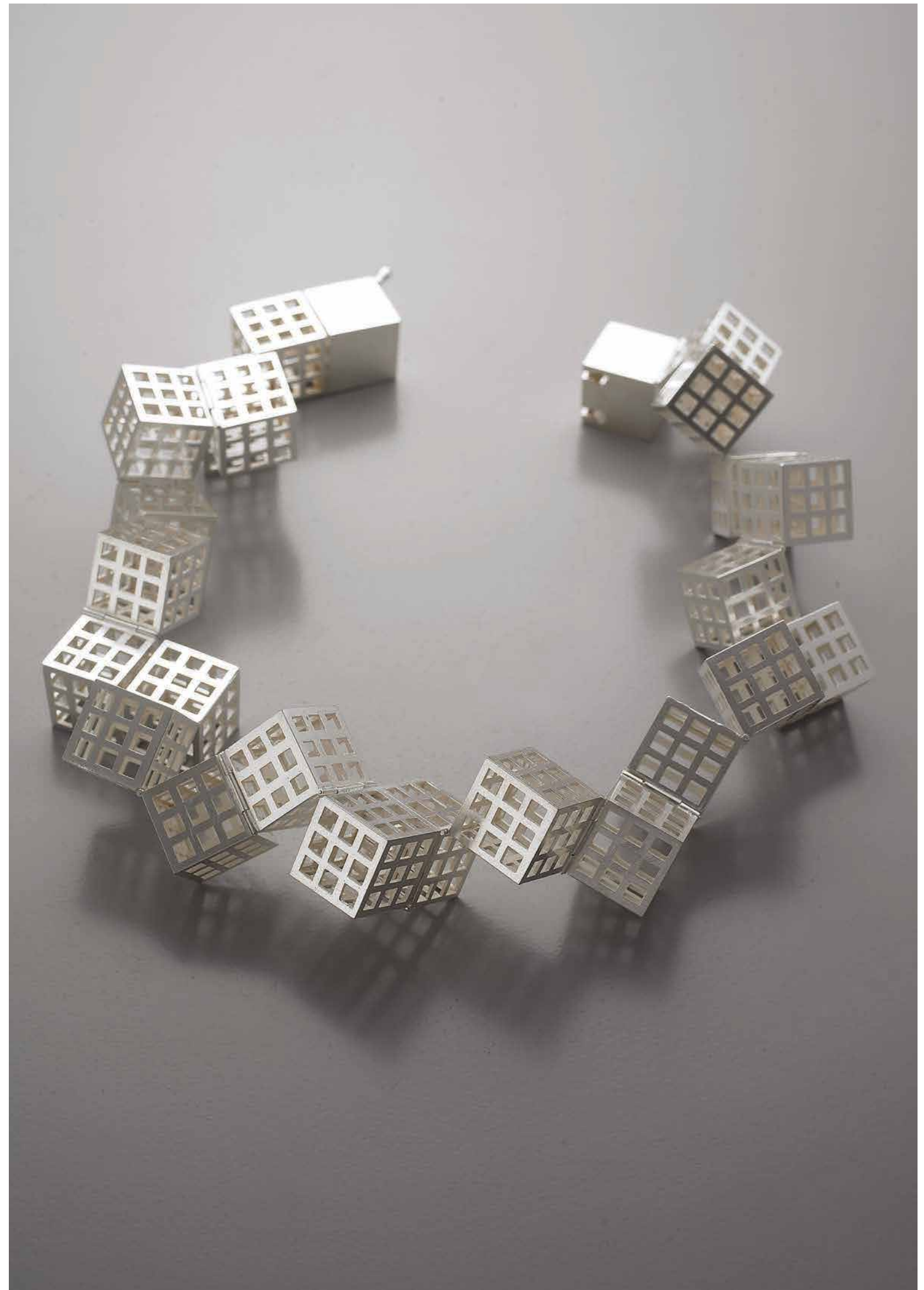
"Thunder" necklace 18k yellow gold

Brooch 18k yellow gold





"Cube" necklace sterling silver



Necklace 18k yellow gold, sterling silver



"Vase 1 (Torso)" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold  
"Vase 2" brooch sterling silver  
"Vase 3" brooch sterling silver, silver solder, 18k yellow gold solder  
"Vase4" brooch sterling silver, 18k yellow gold, gumbu



"My tree" brooch sterling silver  
"Autumn tree" brooch copper, 18k yellow gold  
"Winter tree" brooch sterling silver





"Let it be" brooch 18k yellow gold, diamond



SOWONJOO  
STUDIO



Necklace, bracelet sterling silver



Necklace sterling silver

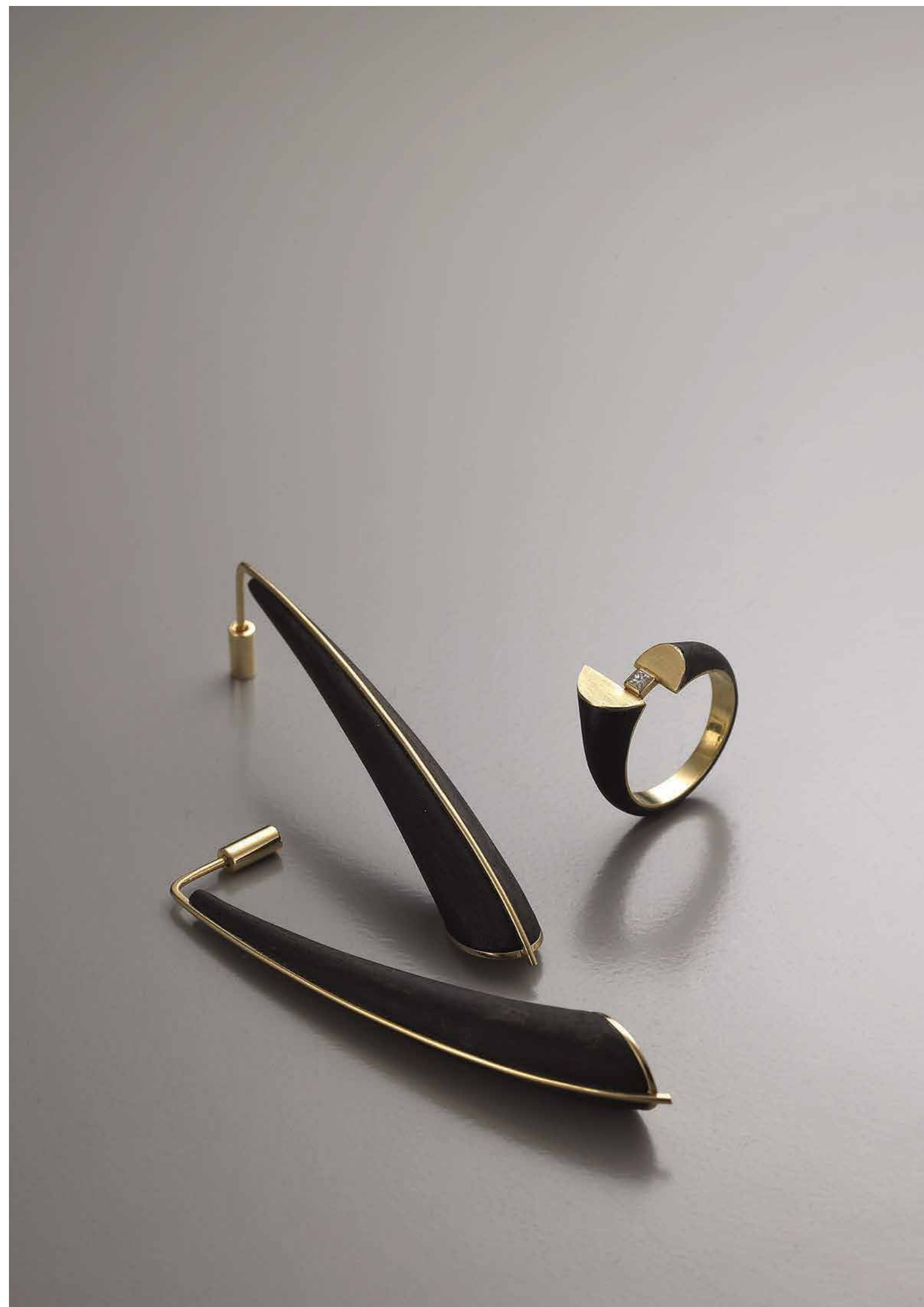


Earrings 18k yellow gold



Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamond

Earrings, ring ebony, 18k yellow gold, diamond





Rings 18k yellow gold, diamond, pearl



Earrings 18k yellow gold, diamond, pearl



Ring 18k yellow gold, diamond, pearl





Ring 18k yellow gold, diamond, citrine



Earrings 18k yellow gold, lemon quartz, diamond



Ring pink amethyst, aquamarine, diamond, 18k yellow gold



Ring 18k yellow gold, diamond, green amethyst



Earrings 18k yellow gold, pink amethyst, diamond





Ring 18k yellow gold, blue topaz, white topaz



Ring 18k yellow gold, blue topaz, white topaz



Ring 18k yellow gold, diamond, aquamarine, white topaz



Ring, earrings green quartz, diamond, 18k yellow gold



Earrings sterling silver lapis lazuli, diamond



Earrings 18k yellow gold, chalcedony, diamond



Ring sterling silver, mother of pearl, lapis lazuli  
Earrings sterling silver, mother of pearl, lapis lazuli



Ring, earrings 18k yellow gold, milk aquamarine, quartz, moonstone



Ring, earrings garnet, citrine, aquamarine, moonstone



Ring, earrings 18k yellow gold, white topaz, diamond



ring 18k gold, diamond, rutilated, quartz



Ring, earrings 18k yellow gold, diamond, pearl



Wedding rings 18k white gold, diamond



Wedding rings 18k yellow gold, diamond





Cross Necklace sterling silver

## Sowon Joo

### EDUCATION BACKGROUND

- 2000 BFA Dept. of Craft Arts, Seoul National University/ Seoul, Korea
- 2003 Complete the course of MFA, Dept. of Craft and Design/Seoul National University
- 2005 MFA Metal/Jewelry design, School for American Craft at Rochester Institute of Technology/ Rochester, NY
- 06-08 Independent study, Sculpture, Cornell University/Ithaca, NY
- 07-08 Artist in Residence, Rochester Institute of Technology/Rochester, NY

### SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2010 3rd solo exhibition "From the Seed", Gallery Royal, Seoul
- 2009 2nd solo show, INSA art center, Seoul
- 2008 1st solo exhibition "Sculpted from Nature", The Gallery at One Bauch & Lomb Place, Rochester, NY

### GROUP EXHIBITION

- 2013 "LOOT", MAD museum, New York, USA  
Seoul metal biennale, INSA art center, Seoul, Korea
- 2012 SOFA Chicago, USA  
"Korea tomorrow", Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea  
SOFA New York, USA  
Valentine show, De novo gallery, Palo Alto, USA  
"International fiber biennale", Snyderman-works gallery, Philadelphia, USA  
RIT Alumni show, White block gallery, Heiry, Korea
- 2011 "Living Design fair", Coex, Seoul, Korea  
"Art Road 77", Rio Gallery, Korea  
Seoul National University Alumni show, INSA Art Center, Korea  
"Craft Dream", Chiwoo Museum, Korea  
"Brooches of May", Seoul, Korea  
"21 ideas", Gallery Royal, Seoul, Korea
- 2010 RIT Alumni Exhibition, Bevier Gallery, Rochester, NY  
"Tuning the Tools", Gallery lang, Seoul, Korea  
"Tastes of Arts", Hyundai art gallery, Ulsan, Korea
- 2009 Korean Metal Art & Design Today, Washington DC  
Cheongju Biennale, Cheongju, Korea  
"Love Your Body". INSA art center, Seoul, Korea  
"Communication & Trends", Chungwa University, Beijing, China  
"Art in Living", Two Person show, Gallery Royal, Seoul, Korea  
"Talking Hands", MOA, Seoul, Korea  
"100s Cross", The Bridge Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
"The History of Korean Metal craft-100 Artists", Gallery GAC, Seoul, Korea  
"Love collection", Gallery The Bridge, Seoul, Korea  
"Living Design Fair", Coex, Seoul, Korea
- 2008 "LIGHTING", Coex, Seoul, Korea  
"PRECIOUS", Two Person show, Gallery Royal, Seoul, Korea  
RIT Alumni Show, Seoul, Korea  
Buyers market, Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA  
NICHE Award, Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 "Craft Art Western New York 2006", Burchfield-Penny Art Center, Buffalo, NY  
Two Person Show, The Gallery at One Bauch & Lomb Place, Rochester, NY
- 2005 "Passage", Wendell Castle Gallery, Scottsville, NY  
"The Influence of Rock n' Roll", Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, Ohio  
SNAG Competition, Ohio  
NICHE Award, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2004 "Craft Art Western New York 2004", Burchfield- Penny Art Center, Buffalo, NY  
RIT-Kunkook University Exhibition, Seoul, Korea

### AWARD / AWARDED EXHIBITION

- 2009 Chongju Biennale- Honorable mention
- 2008 MERIT Award (from Rosen Group)  
SAULBELL Award (from Rio Grande)-Gold/Platinum part-second place
- 2006 "Craft Art Western New York 2006"
- 2005 Alumni Award, Rochester Institute of Technology  
"The Influence of Rock n' Roll"
- 2004 Award as Overall Excellence, Rochester Institute of Technology  
"Craft Art Western New York 2004"
- 2001 Chongju Biennale- Honorable mention

### PRESENT

Instructor at Seoul National University

### COLLECTION

The Harrison Building, New York  
Korea Refractory, Chungnam, Korea  
Foosung Tech, Suwon, Korea



