

Large Scale Fabric Installation Replicating Do Ho Suh's Studio Opens at the Brooklyn Museum

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by Pat Rogers

Do Ho Suh's *The Perfect Home II* (2003), a full-scale fabric replica of the artist's former New York City apartment, will be unveiled at the Brooklyn Museum in "One: Do Ho Suh." The single artwork exhibition opens on October 12, 2018 and continues on view through January 27, 2019.

A recent acquisition to the museum's collection of Contemporary Art, *The Perfect Home II* (2003) is a full-scale re-creation of Suh's former apartment in New York, where he lived from 1997 to 2016. *The Perfect Home II* is made with a translucent nylon material and carefully hand-sewn. The work questions the meaning of permanence, the process of finding a home, and how personal space comes to define an individual, themes that are particularly resonant right now in light of mass global migration. Do Ho Suh's art engages with migration and cultural displacement.

"The acquisition of this major installation by Do Ho Suh, generously gifted to us by Lawrence B. Benenson, greatly enriches the contemporary holdings in our collection," Eugenie Tsai, Brooklyn Museum John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, stated in an announcement. "The work addresses loss and memory on several levels - the personal, the local, and the global - making it an ideal piece to initiate a range of fascinating conversations with our diverse audiences."



“The Perfect Home II” by Do Ho Suh, 2003. Translucent nylon. Brooklyn Museum; Gift of Lawrence B. Benenson, 2017.46. Photo: Courtesy of the artist, Lehmann Maupin Gallery and the Brooklyn Museum.

Do Ho Suh was born in 1962 in Seoul, South Korea, and immigrated to the United States when he was in his early twenties. His work reflects his personal history of migration and displacement, and often centers on notions of personal and cultural identity. He is best known for his meticulously crafted fabric sculptures and full-scale replicas of homes he has lived in.

The Perfect Home II, which reproduces the apartment he lived in on West Twenty-Second Street, in Chelsea, NY for nearly 20 years, emphasizes the connection people have to physical spaces, and how such spaces often come to embody memories of living within them. The installation re-visions the apartment itself, rendered in blue; the adjacent corridor, in pink; and the upstairs floor, in green.

Suh spares no detail in the life-size re-creation of his apartment, which includes infrastructure details such as air vents, radiators, and light fixtures, and even an intercom. Visitors are able to walk through Suh’s work, in a sense inhabiting his former apartment and his memories. The delicate fabric chosen for the sculpture lends an ethereal quality to the work, heightening the feeling of walking through the artist’s intimate world.

Suh’s lightweight fabric sculptures allow him, quite literally, to put his home and related memories into a suitcase to carry wherever he goes. Like many artists, he lives a nomadic existence. After moving to the United States from South Korea, he relocated to Berlin and then London, where he lives now. These moves have found the artist repeatedly adapting to a new environment in a

foreign culture. By re-creating his former homes, Suh is able to create a transitional space during these periods of adaptation – and even carry these structures and the memories they contain with him.

“One: Do Ho Suh” is part of the Brooklyn Museum’s “One Brooklyn” series, which is curated by Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum. Each exhibition in the series focuses on an individual work chosen from the Brooklyn Museum’s encyclopedic collection, revealing the many stories woven into a single work of art.

BASIC FACTS: “One: Do Ho Suh” will be on view from October 12, 2018 to January 27, 2019 in the Brooklyn Museum’s Rotunda. The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238. www.brooklynmuseum.org

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