



Pontone
GALLERY

Choi Soowhan
Complex Emptiness

COVER

Emptiness – Forsythia (detail) | 2016

LED Laminate

124 x 222 x 10 cm (48.5 x 87.5 x 4 in)

Complex Emptiness | Choi Soowhan

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In a virtuoso display of painstaking craftsmanship, Korean artist Choi Soowhan devises compelling three-dimensional images of plants, waterfalls, waves and landscape. These monochromatic pieces, with their dramatically-contrasting, ink-dark shadows and dazzling pinpoints of light, convey a brooding intensity. His evocations of the natural world express its complexity, abundance and variety. The artist invites us to consider growth, change and flux.

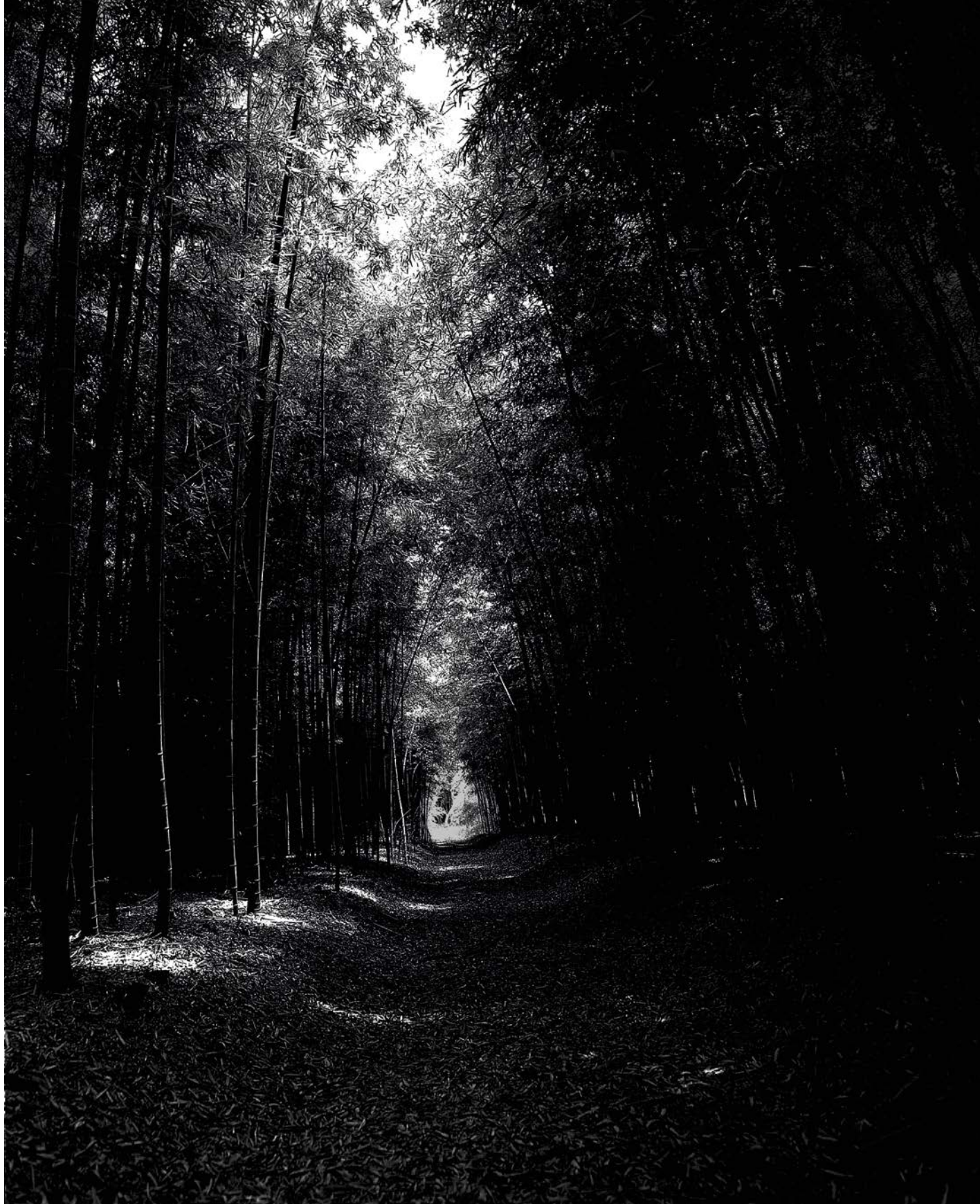
Choi Soowhan's light boxes are made from sheets of black plexiglass. When backlit by LED lighting, a multitude of finely-drilled holes create the image. The spacing and diameter of the hole are variable. This simple, binary combination brings about an optical effect which we interpret as a picture. The artist refers to this process of hole-making as creating 'emptiness'. Contradictorally, the result is content. Substance is perceived from vacancy.

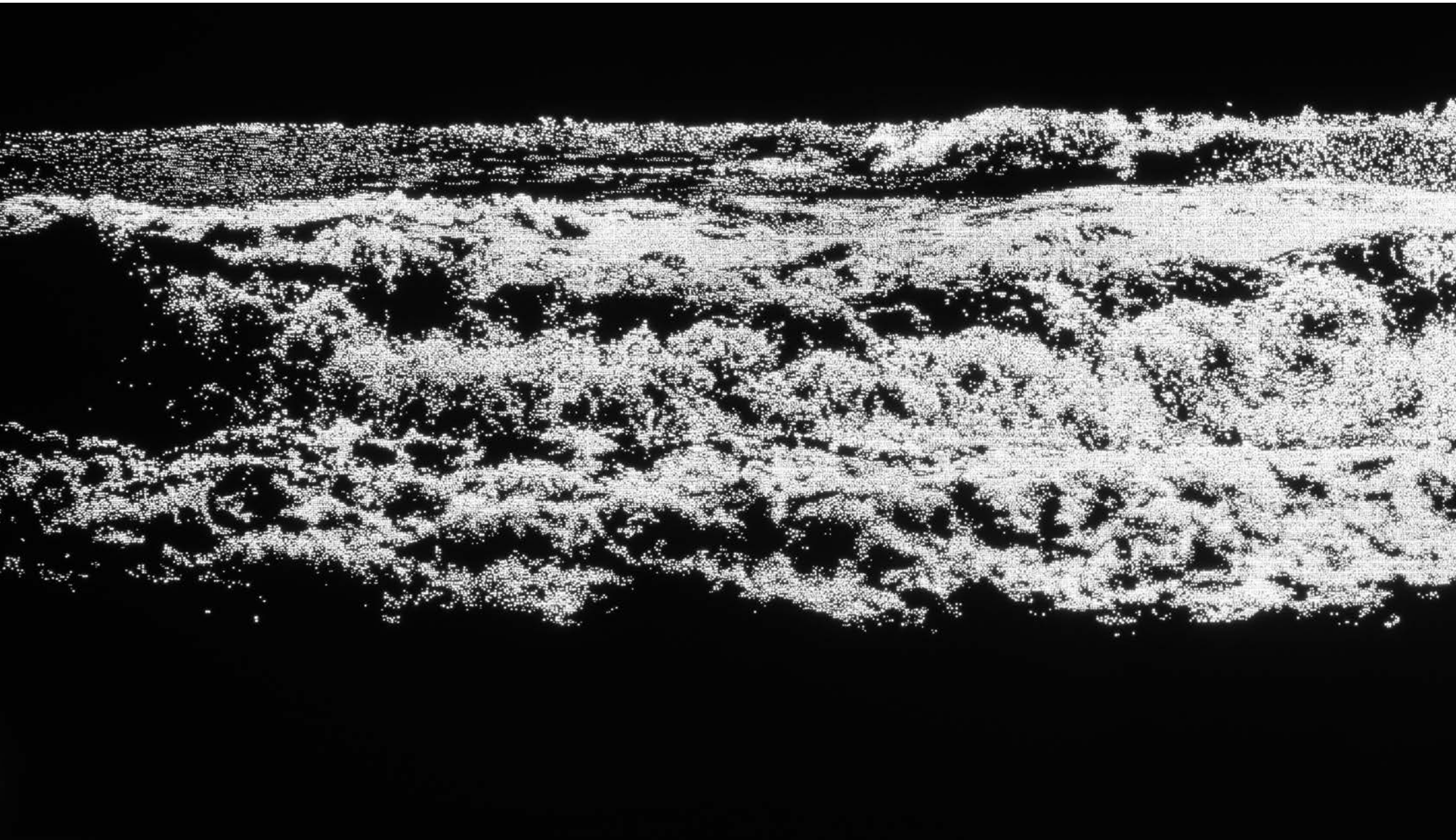
His is a reductive process. In contrast to classical techniques of image-making, like painting, where information is built up in layers across a surface, Soowhan's method is more akin to carving. He excavates the essential from his raw material. Control and rigid focus drive his mode of production, there is no room whatsoever for expressive handling or mercurial deviation from routine. The impact of his pieces rests entirely on realising the cumulative power of the obsessive application of his rigorous system.

The matter of his work, so hard-won from the 'blank slate' of plexiglass, celebrates the richness of nature. In contrast to its exuberant life and vital energy, his materials have to have such qualities invested in them. He does this in a somewhat paradoxical way, doggedly exercising an austere methodology, in order to achieve something transcendent.

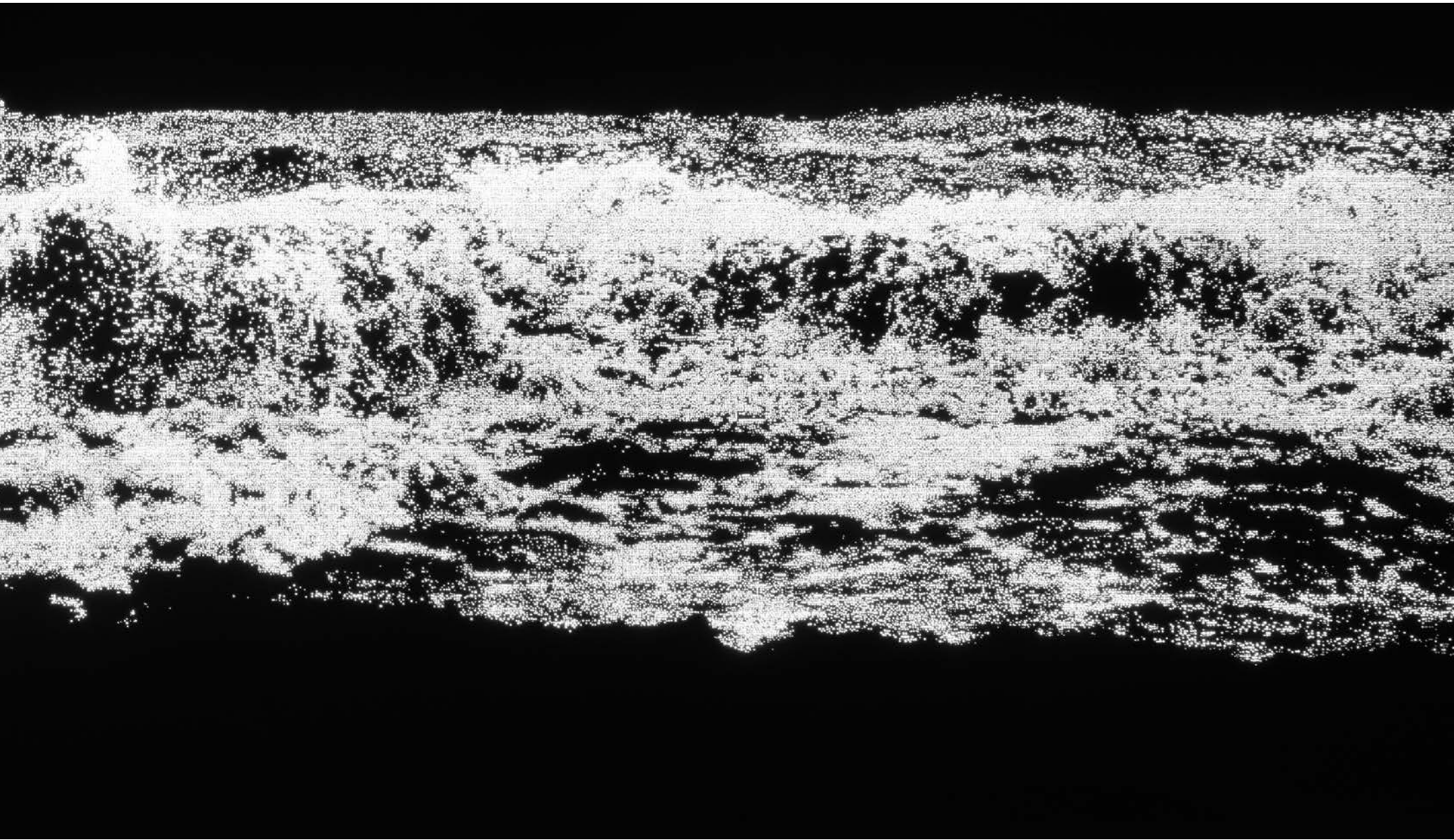
This committed and thoughtful artist's sophisticated 'philosophy of making' imbues his pieces with a profound seriousness and emotional weight.

Emptiness – Bamboo Grove | 2019
LED Laminate
190 x 152.5 x 10 cm (75 x 60 x 4 in)





Emptiness – Wave | 2015
LED Laminate
71.5 x 243.5 x 7 cm (28 x 95.5 x 3 in)





Emptiness – Wave (detail) | 2015
LED Laminate
71.5 x 243.5 x 7 cm (28 x 95.5 x 3 in)



Emptiness – Forsythia | 2016
LED Laminate
124 x 222 x 10 cm (48.5 x 87.5 x 4 in)





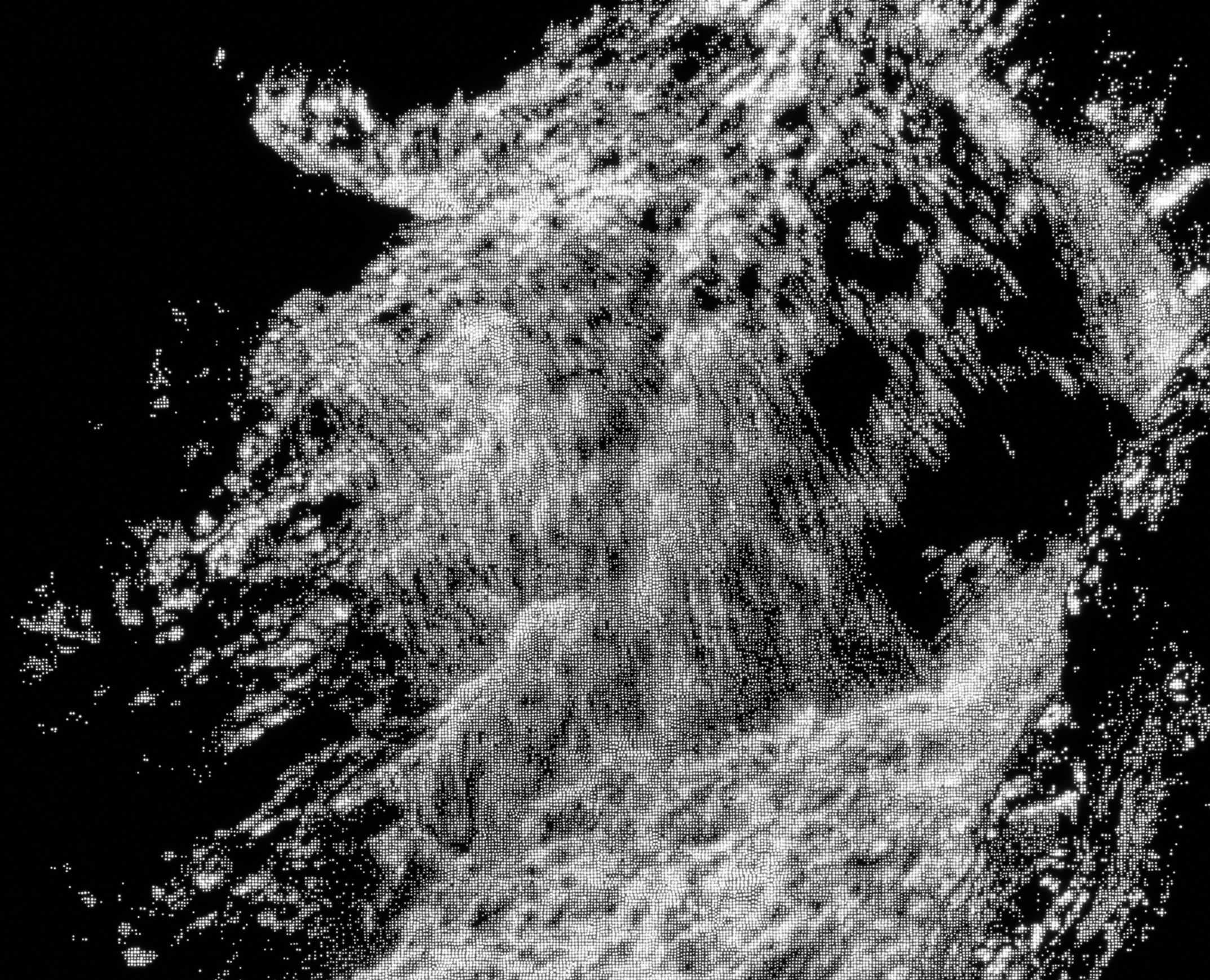




Emptiness – Ansan | 2018
LED Laminate
97 x 145.5 x 8 cm (38 x 57 x 3 in)



Emptiness – Waterfall | 2018
LED Laminate
204 x 124 x 10 cm (80.5 x 48.5 x 4 in)



CHOI SOOWHAN

Born in Gyeongju, South Korea, 1972

Professor at Chugye University for the Arts

EDUCATION

2004-2006 M.F.A. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

1993-1998 B.F.A. ChuGye University for the Arts, Seoul

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2018 Abu Dhabi Art, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
KIAF 2018, COEX, Seoul

2017 Beautiful Winter, Lotte Gallery, Daejeon
Media Art in Ulsan, Ulsan Culture Art Centre, Ulsan
Responds to Light and Sound, Danwon Art Museum, Ansan
The 35th Korea Galleries Art Fair 2017, PYO Gallery, Seoul

2016 How to Keep Winter, Shinsegae Gallery, Incheon
Walk in Emptiness, PYO Gallery, Seoul
The Traces of 10 Years/The Future of 10 Years, Cheongju Art Studio, Cheongju

2015 Fall, GUM BO SUNG ART, Seoul
From Dot, Makeshop Art Space, Paju
Walk in Emptiness, Gallery Lee & Bae, Busan
Light & View, Gallery KUNST, Daegu
BLUE, Gallery Lee & Bae, Busan
Art Busan, BEXCO, Busan
Art Gyeongju 2015 Special Exhibition, HICO, Gyeongju

2014 DREAMLAND, Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong
Prologue 2014, MakeShop Art Space, Paju
LANTERN FESTIVAL, Cheonggyecheon, Seoul
MakeShop Top10, MakeShop Art Space, Paju
SeMA's New Acquisitions 2013, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul

2013 Winter Project_ALIVE ART MUSEUM, Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong
Art•Vision, Gwangju Biennale Exhibition Hall, Gwangju
The Enjoy Encounter, Pangyo
Pyeong Chang Biennale, ANGVA Expo Gallery, Gangwon Museum + Summer Vacance, Shinsegae Gallery, Incheon

2012 ILLUMINATION-Light in Today's Art, Seoul Arts Centre, Seoul
Emptiness, Yoo Art Space, Seoul
CheonMa Opening Exhibition, Cheonan
CHEONGDAM ART FAIR, Art Space Who, Seoul
KIAF 2012, COEX, Seoul
Gana Atelier Resident Artists Report Exhibition, Gana Art Centre
Artience Project, the Expo Science Park, Daejeon
C21 Opening Exhibition, Chugye University for the Arts, Seoul
The Vision & Reflection, Kyoung Book National University Art Museum, Daegu

COLLECTIONS

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Government Art Bank
I'Park Suwon City Museum, Suwon
Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art, Jeju
Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
Daegu MBC, Daegu
Dongseo University, Busan
Ocean Hills Country Club, Cheongdo
FAWOO Technology, Gyeonggi-do
Michael Aram, Inc., New York
Galesburg Civic Art Centre, Galesburg, Illinois
Targetti Sankey S.P.A., Florence
VOA Associates, Inc., Chicago

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