

Holed (Hold)

Few years ago, I was preparing for an invitational group exhibition with a few other Korean artists, titled "On the Edge." Unfortunately, the exhibition was canceled, but while I was researching Finland, where the exhibition had been scheduled, I came to learn that my work *Cup*, produced 25 years prior, actually resembles the *kuksa*, a traditional handicraft work of the Sami people living in the Lapland region, so I happily chose this as the motif for my works in the exhibition. It is said that the Sami people have always carved the *kuksa* by hand from birch burls, and carried and cherished them for life. Likewise, my cup, now unusable due to the holes in it, is also very dear to me.

Looking back, I have been working in ceramics for quite a long time. My daily life as a ceramic artist forms a large part of me. Although pottery work is not the most lucrative, my pride as an artist provides the spiritual foundation for my life. The cup with holes hanging on the wall embodies my many years and meaning of life as a ceramic artist, and so is precious to me. That is why I chose *kuksa* as the theme. As I made new cups, I had a meaningful time reflecting on the pottery work that I had held on to. The works are installed in a way so that the audience can walk along and look at the cups lined up at eye level and look through the holes. They can have a moment to 'look back' through the act of 'looking in.'

The title "Holed" means 'perforated', and in terms of form, it refers to a cup with holes. Conceptually, however, it has the implication of a word with the same pronunciation: 'hold.' That is why I hung my works on the wall instead of a display stand. I am not sure if I am 'holding' it or being 'held.' After 25 years of pottery work, I am a little tired, but I still want to recall the memory of when I had just started on pottery, reflect on my precious work and confirm the meaning of it. In addition, I want to take the opportunity to ask myself whether I am faithful to the 'life on the edge' that always pursues a new challenge.

<https://youtu.be/9xKaOPAved0>

The catastrophe that has hit the world has stopped it in its tracks, and this has also put off some of my plans indefinitely. That is, my work on 'Holed' has been put on 'hold.' While many people are going through another depressing year, I also have many thoughts piled up in this 'Corona blues.' The second video shows the cups made to get out of this depression and bring in some positive energy. If the first video focuses on looking back on

the past, the second conveys my dreams and wishes for the future. I would appreciate it if you watch the video of my two works at https://youtu.be/GD7e_e_7T18.

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