



RED SEA  
GALLERY

## Cha Jong-Rye, b. 1968



Cha Jong Rye was born in Daejeon, Korea, a historic province now known as the silicone valley of Korea, but whose name translates to a 'large field' harking back to its simple organic roots. These roots in the simplicity of nature are the basis of her works and she uses wood as her chosen medium. Cha graduated from Ewha Women's University in 1996.

She works with wood as if it was clay or paint; she layers and meticulously sands hundreds of delicate wood pieces into aesthetic contours and shapes that seemingly have no beginning or end. The resulting monumental, self-standing or wall-mounted works of art have a natural fluidity and energy that symbolizes Cha's philosophy of the landscape of our individual lives and the world around us. Presenting her sculptures in the present tense, as something living and moving, rather than as complete reality, her work also calls on the ideas of creation, infinity and eternity.

Setting Cha Jong-Rye apart is her precision, detail and craftsmanship. Wood as a material has a high flexibility and characteristics that require a great skill to understand and work with. It is her ability to 'talk' to the wood, to challenge and manipulate it, both with and against its natural grains, which allows it to gently receive her movements and thus transform its natural hard appearance into soft, warm and tactile sculptures. Cha working on the wood, the play between layers and tension, and the subsequent dancing movement of light and shadow across the asymmetrical surfaces, combines to create a powerful expression of flowing energy and life.

Cha Jong Rye's works are part of numerous private collections and she has exhibited in many solo and group shows globally, most recently at the Sunkok Art Museum, Korea. She currently lives and works in Korea.