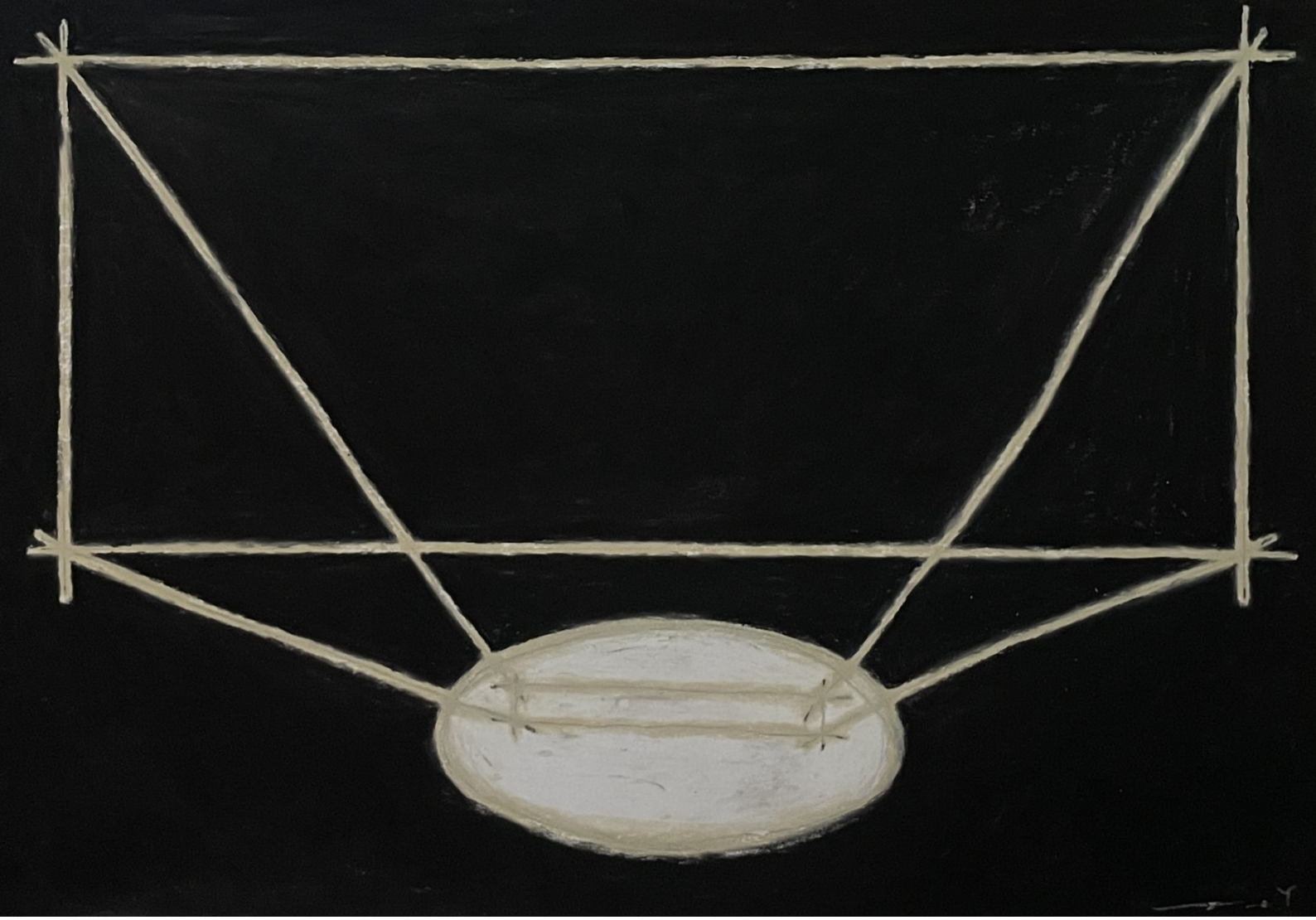

PORTFOLIO 2026

E.ZY

LEE JI HWAN

Consigned Consciousness · Frame · Tremors of Countless Particles · Daily Archive

Seoul, Korea

e.zy@kakao.com · @e_____zy

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E.ZY (Lee Ji Hwan, b. 1993, Seoul) works with painting and drawing. He studied architecture engineering and furniture design at Hyupsung University, and has worked mainly in oil pastel since 2020. His paintings treat the canvas as a structure that establishes a world, and follow two lines of inquiry: the consignment of human judgment to algorithmic systems, and the particle as the smallest unit of existence.



A Garden of Toned Emotions
installation view

SERIES 01

Consigned Consciousness

2026



Consigned Consciousness – 08
Oil pastel on paper, 25.7 × 18.2 cm, 2026

The *Consigned Consciousness* series explores how human cognitive agency is gradually surrendered to the blind structures of algorithms in the post-digital era.

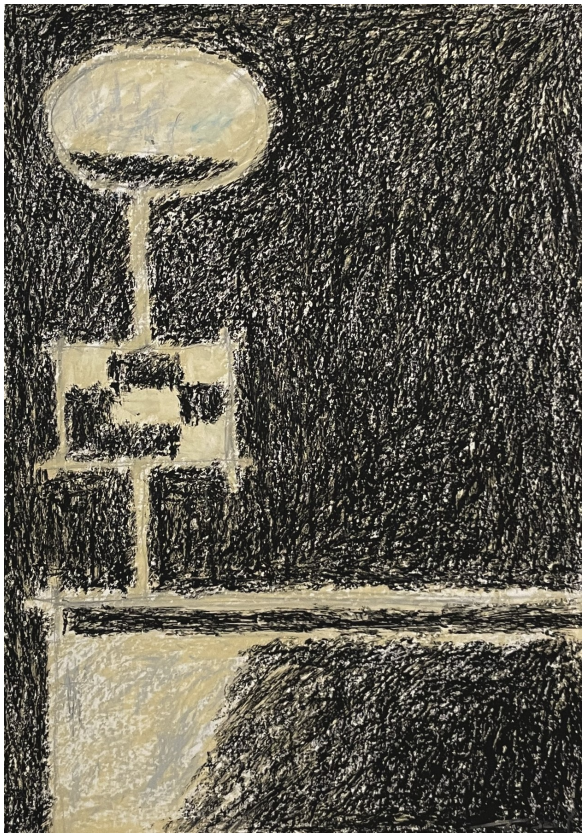
Paradoxically, rapid technological advancement is stripping away the cognitive labor of contemplation and struggle. As we exchange information through screens, our questions, emotions and moments of decision are continuously turned into data that trains artificial intelligence. Ultimately, this body of work goes beyond the mere delegation of judgment, carrying a chilling dystopian premonition in which human consciousness itself is outsourced to the system.

The dry, geometric lines cutting across the picture plane borrow the conventions of architectural drafting. Within the composition, the circle embodies the vessel of thought and perception, the human head, while the rectangle signifies the AI display and artificial structure that absorb and regulate our data.

These drafted lines connecting two disparate forms visualize the trajectory of consignment: taking in information through the screen while transmitting our consciousness out to the system. Each canvas stands as a cold psychological blueprint recording the condition of contemporary human existence slowly numbing within a vast algorithmic frame.

01

Seoul, 2026



Consigned Consciousness – 11
Oil pastel on paper, 21 × 14.8 cm, 2026



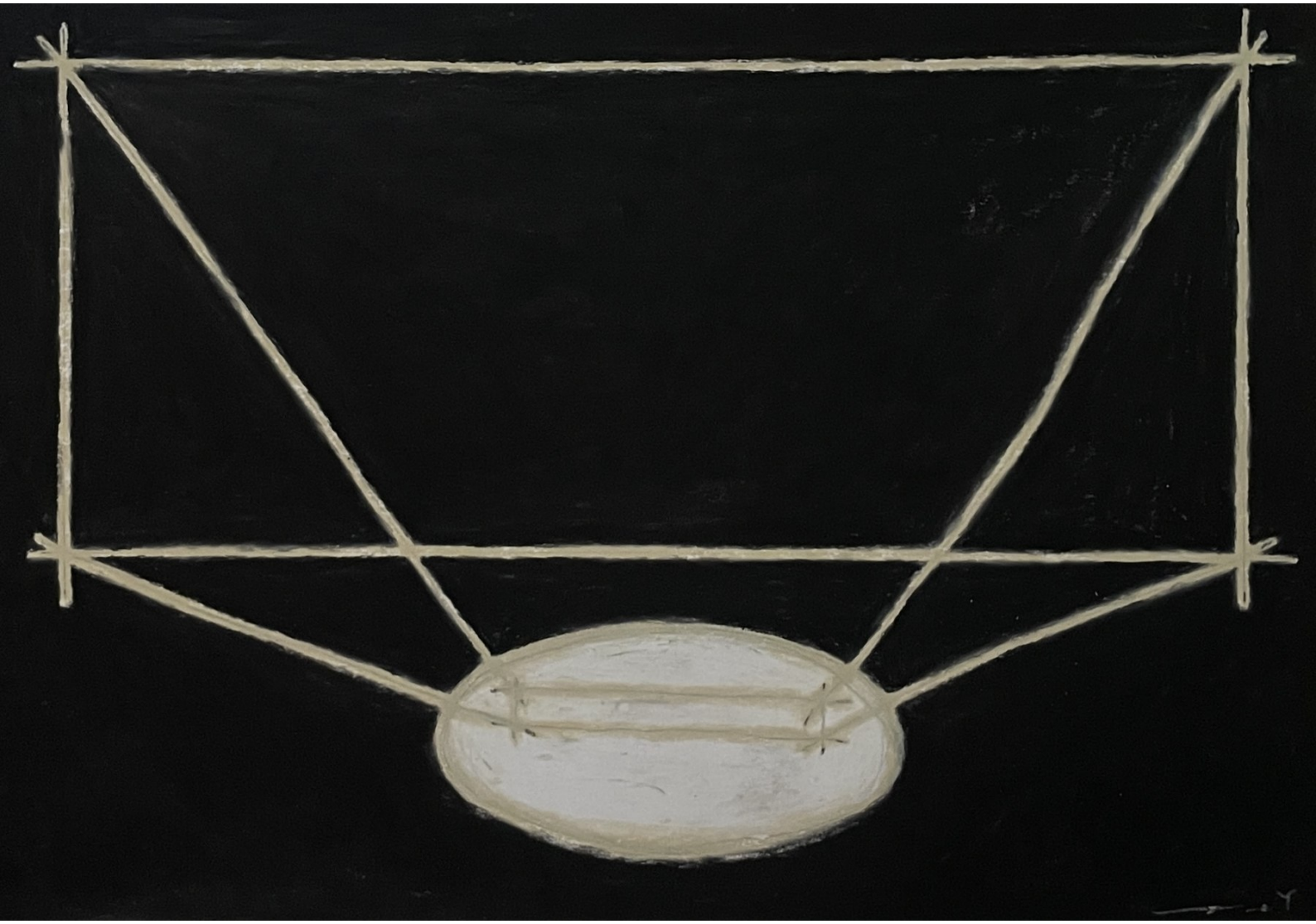
Consigned Consciousness – 12
Oil pastel on paper, 21 × 14.8 cm, 2026

IO

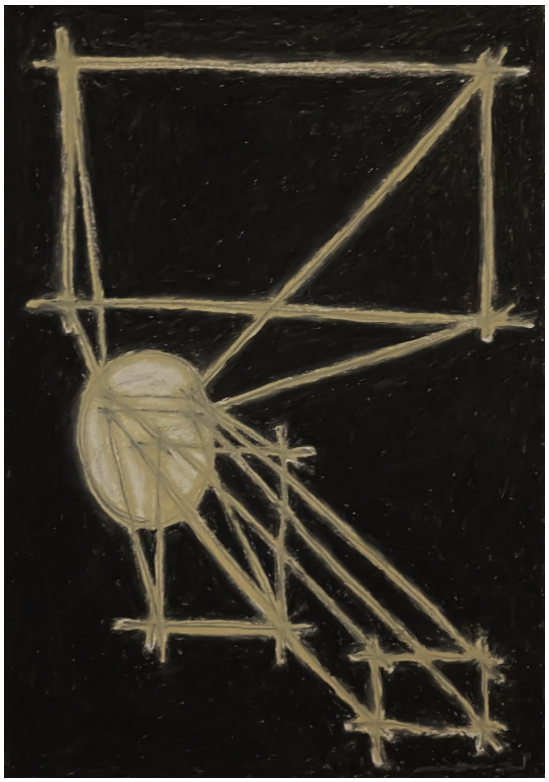


Consigned Consciousness – 10
Oil pastel on paper, 18.2 × 25.7 cm, 2026

14



Consigned Consciousness – 14
Oil pastel on paper, 38 × 54 cm, 2026



Consigned Consciousness – 13
Oil pastel on paper, 21 × 14.8 cm, 2026

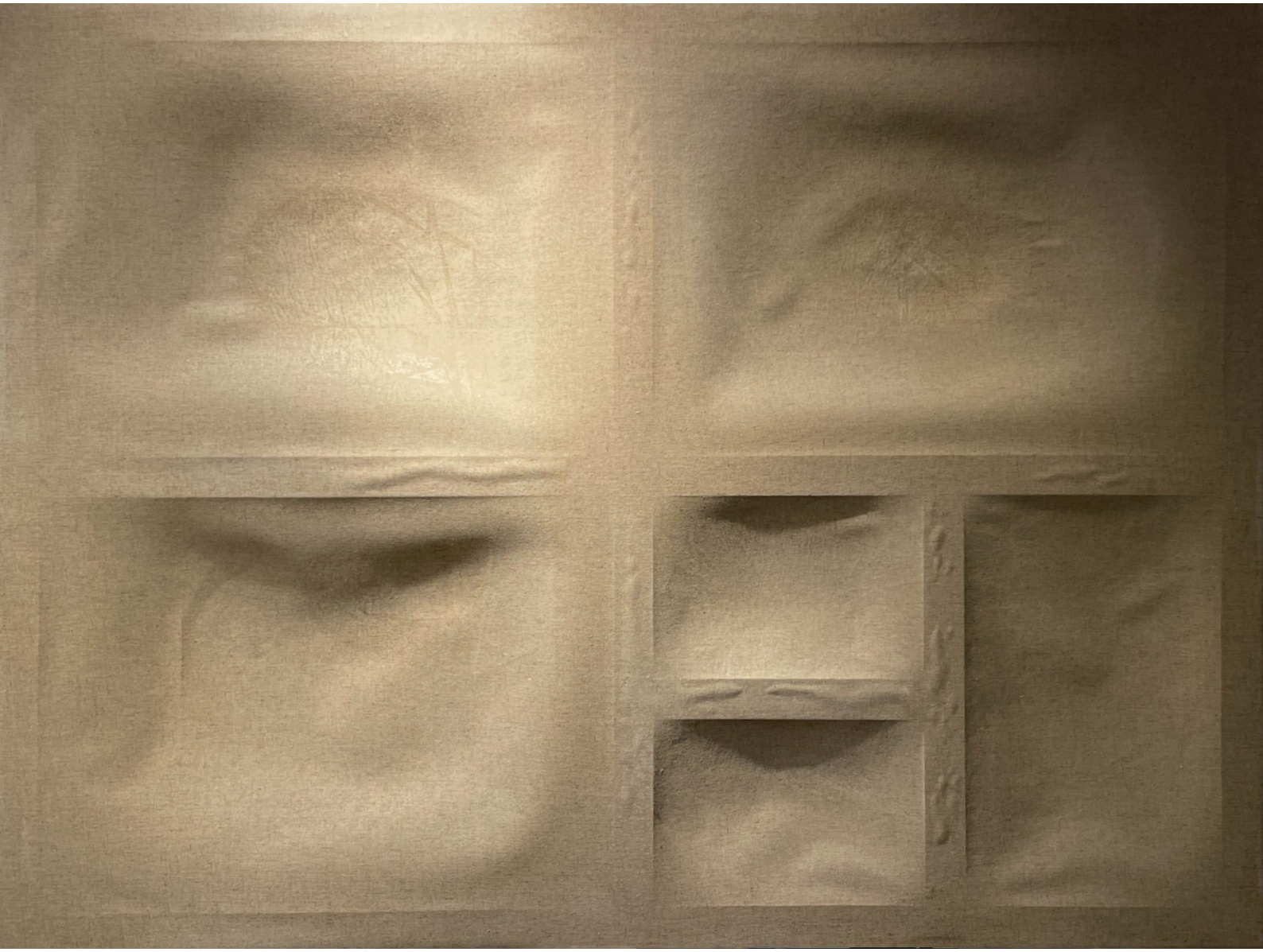


Consigned Consciousness – 15
Mixed media on linen, 27 × 22 cm, 2026

SERIES 02

Frame
We Are Always Confined

2026



Frame – We Are Always Confined
Linen, PVA, wood frame, 90 × 120 cm, 2026

This work begins not by treating the canvas as a flat surface that holds an image, but as a structure that establishes a world.

A frame is commonly understood as the boundary around a painting. In *Frame* the wooden frame remains hidden behind the linen, perceivable only through the contours it leaves on the surface. The forms seen from the front appear arbitrarily placed, yet behind them lies an actual structural framework; the surface is the only evidence of it.

The frame here is not a decorative outline but a set of rules that organizes how we perceive the world. Extra bars divide the canvas into rectangles of different sizes where a conventional stretcher would have none, each of them a universe of its own.

We believe we move freely, yet we remain confined inside a structure whose true form we cannot directly see — and we experience the world inside frames of many kinds: personal senses, social norms, language, institutions and spatial order.

Ultimately, *Frame* asks not what is seen but what makes something visible.

02

Seoul, 2026

SERIES 03

Tremors of Countless Particles
A Journey Toward the Reason for Existence

2023–2024

My work begins with a single question that runs through the universe. Why do we exist at all?

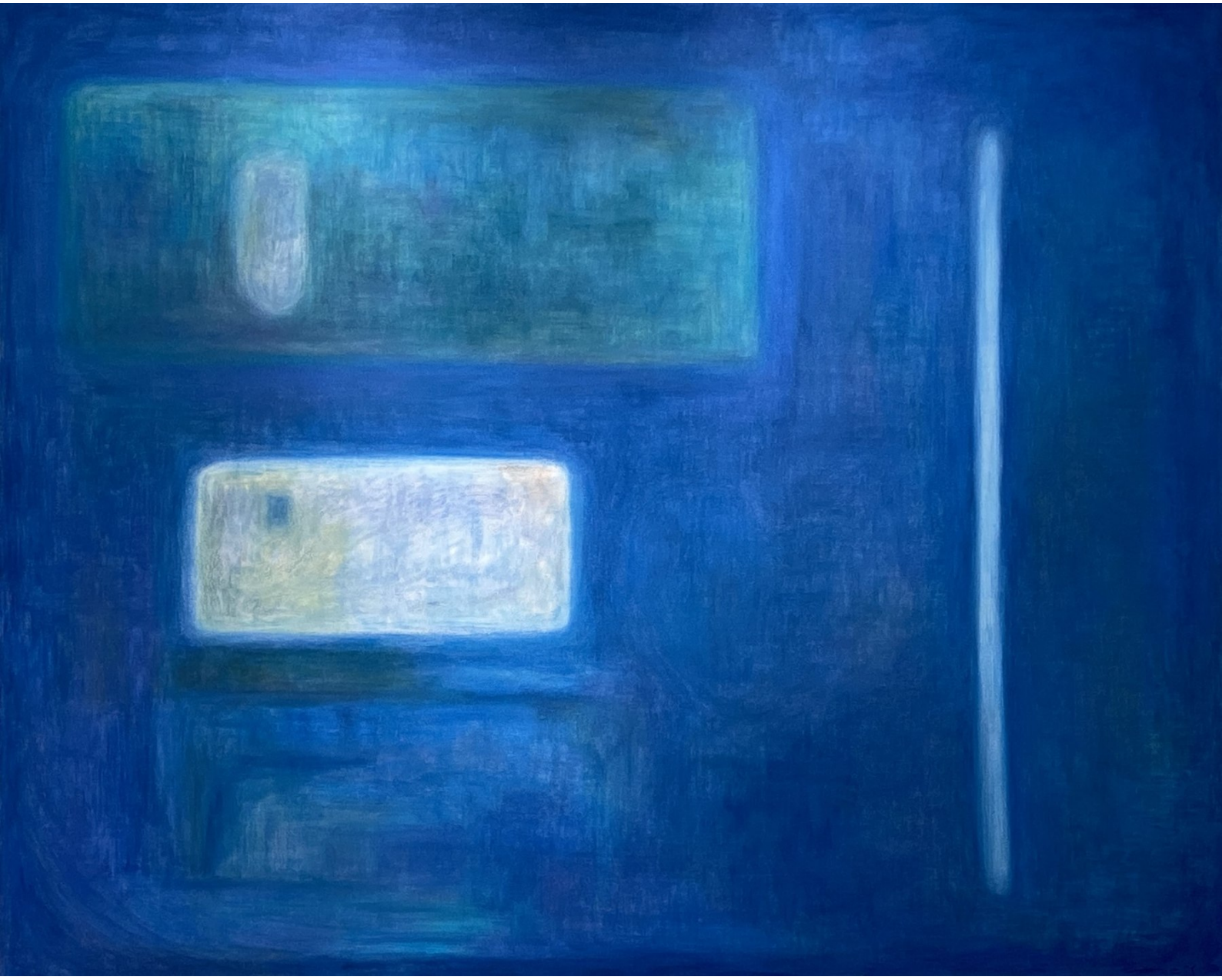
We are all assemblages of minuscule particles. From the vast cosmos to the small objects before my eyes, and myself included, everything is composed of microscopic particles in constant vibration. Yet scientific fact alone does not explain the reason for existence. We know we are physical entities made of particles, but the fundamental answer to why we must exist in this exact form, in this universe, right now, remains unknown.

Before this unfathomable mystery of existence, I feel both awe and a stifling helplessness. My canvas is an experimental ground and a space of contemplation to confront that unresolved thirst.

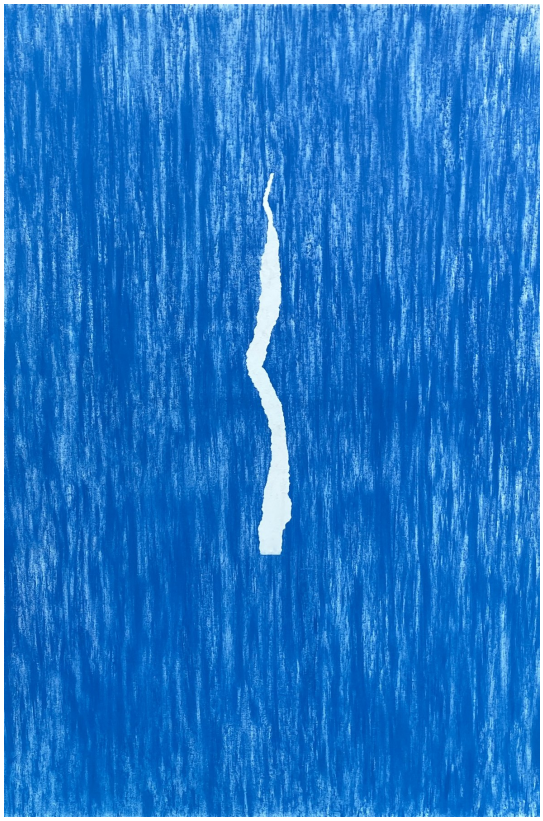
Smearing oil pastel across the surface, layering color and blurring boundaries is not merely image-making. It is a process of visualizing the presence of particles beyond fixed forms, and a struggle to step closer to the essence of existence we cannot fully perceive. Through painting, I wish to ask: in a world where empty space outweighs what is filled, how can we be defined? Even if my work offers no final answer, I hope it invites viewers to pause before that immense question and reflect on why we exist.

03

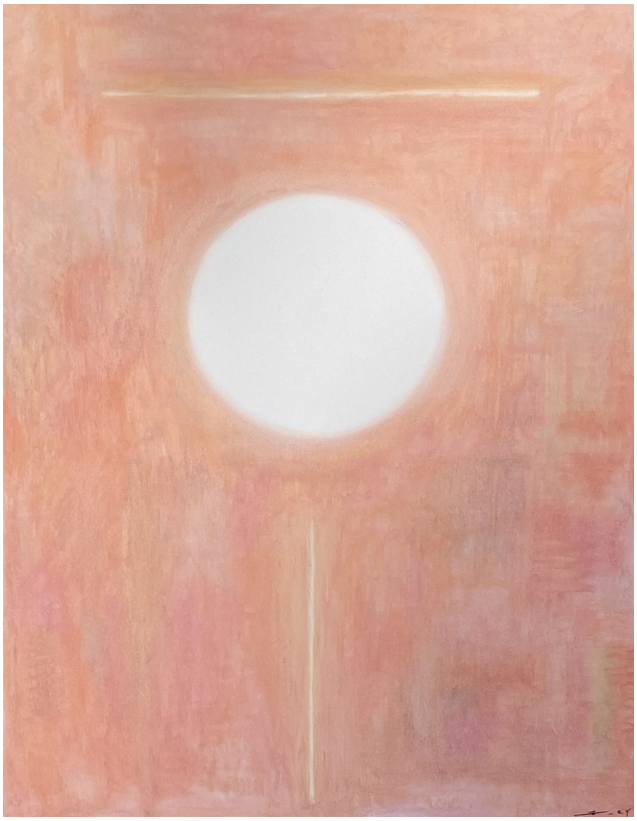
Seoul, 2023–2024



A Garden of Toned Emotions
Oil pastel on paper, 130 × 162 cm, 2023



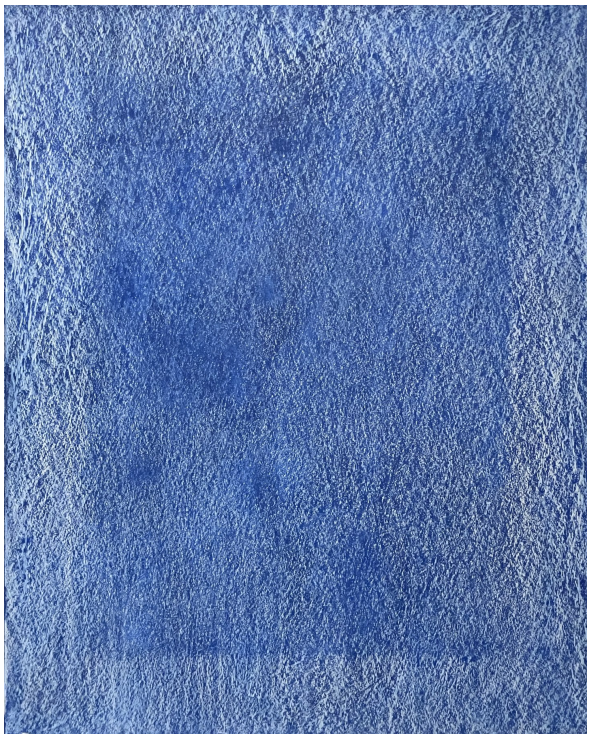
Flow
Oil pastel on paper, 92 × 62 cm, 2023



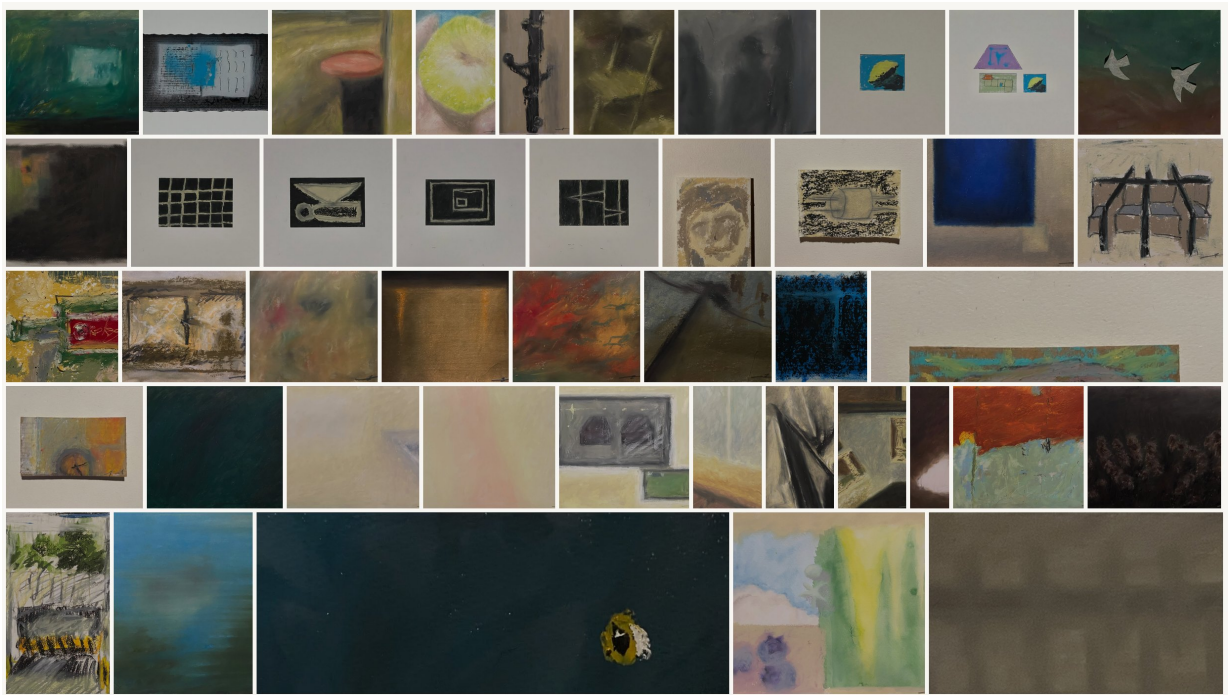
Drawing In
Oil pastel on paper, 117 × 91 cm, 2023



Contemplation
Oil pastel on panel, 91.5 × 72.5 cm, 2023



Closed Spatial Construct
Oil pastel on paper, 91 × 72.8 cm, 2024



ARCHIVE

Daily Archive: 1,500+

DRAWING SERIES, 2019–2026 · OIL PASTEL ON PAPER, VARIABLE DIMENSIONS

Since 2019 I have been building a drawing archive, sheet after sheet, in seasons of plenty and of none. It now holds more than 1,500 sheets of oil pastel on paper, recording the feelings and the objects and scenes around me. Nothing here is a study for a finished painting. Each sheet holds the energy of a single moment, kept as a record rather than resolved as a picture.

The archive is the ground the large paintings stand on. What appears as one decision in a large canvas is rehearsed here hundreds of times: a circle, a rectangle, a line that refuses to close. Shown together on a wall, the sheets read as a record of sustained attention.

CURRICULUM VITAE

E.ZY LEE JI HWAN

b. 1993, Seoul. Lives and works in Seoul.

EDUCATION

2020 B.S. Architecture Engineering, Hyupsung University, Korea

2020 B.A. Furniture Design (double major), Hyupsung University, Korea

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 *CLOSE UP*, Gallery Amidi, Seoul

2020 *Hidden People*, Urban Pluto, Seoul

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *DAF2026*, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul

2024 *Daehyeon Art Festa*, Daehyeon Culture Park, Seoul

2023 *When we are together*, Gallery Amidi, Seoul

2021 *8 Archive*, Cheongdam Miel, Seoul

2020 *TONE&MOOD*, Gallery Amidi, Seoul

SELECTED WORKS

Consigned Consciousness, 08–15, oil pastel on paper and mixed media on linen, 2026

Frame – We Are Always Confined, linen, PVA, wood frame, 2026

Tremors of Countless Particles, oil pastel on paper and panel, 2023–2024

Daily Archive: 1,500+, oil pastel on paper, variable dimensions

SELECTED COLLABORATIONS

Album artwork, 30+ projects, including Yebit, Louie (Geeks) and Jung Yewon

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