



**Lee Su**

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## **Artist Biography and Statement**

Lee Su is a Chinese-American born in Vietnam and educated at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in Providence, Rhode Island. Through RISD's European Honors Program, he also studied for a year in Rome, Italy. He now lives and creates art full-time near Boston, Massachusetts, where he had worked previously as an architectural designer.

Lee sees making art as his compass in life, a major influence of his thought process. Since childhood, he used drawing to aid in thinking. During high school, under the mentorship of a RISD alumna, the late Ms. Barbara Hughes, Lee used his visualization ability to master the subjects studied in science and to absorb additional skills in art. In college, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Art and another for Architecture. Lee continues to gain unconventional comprehension of life by making visual works. The acts of drawing and constructing allow him to decipher abstract ideas and phenomena that he would vaguely grasp when exposed to them solely through written and spoken language, but when he can sensually perceive them, his understanding is magnified. Perhaps it is because Lee started to learn his primary language, English, at the age of eight that he never developed sufficient trust in the written/spoken word and grew to rely on that which is visual and tangible instead. The process of thinking through making became his way of exploring ideas rationally and intuitively.

Where Lee finds inspiration is from life and scientific research. His two and three-dimensional creations are relics left over from investigations. Above all, Lee does not allow any specific medium to restrict his art; instead, he learns and uses that which best facilitates the exploration of the particular concept. Also not bracketed by academic conventions, his method of investigation is not a linear one but a tangential flow through a mass of gathered information. Relationships that are found generate the works before you.

Lee considers himself a creative, problem solving artist, instructor, and designer. His search for solutions utilizing primarily graphical methods is useful to researchers of learning and language in animals and people with disabilities. Some commercial applications for Lee's skills include graphic design, interactive design, industrial design, and that of architecture.



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