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# Do Ho Suh opens at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, as a Sydney exclusive for the Sydney International Art Series 2022-23

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Museum of  
Contemporary  
Art Australia



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**[Sydney, 4 November 2022], A major new survey by internationally renowned artist Do Ho Suh, opens today at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA), as part of the 2022-2023 Sydney International Art Series. This is the first solo exhibition of the South Korean artist's work in the Southern Hemisphere. Exclusive to Sydney, the extensive exhibition will premiere the new installation, *Rubbing/Loving Project: Seoul Home (2013–2022)*.**

**Do Ho Suh** (born 1962, Seoul) is known for his large-scale sculptural and installation works which address the often-complex relationships between the body, memory and space.

This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Australia and represents one of his most comprehensive projects to date. It spans three decades, from the 1990s to the present, and encompasses key works across a wide range of media including sculptures, installations, drawings, printmaking, and video works.

Diasporic experience and the space between different cultures and histories is a recurrent refrain within the works, which situate the home at the centre of our shared physical and psychological experience.

Scale is central to Suh's artworks, which vary from small, singular objects - door handles, plugs and switches, light bulbs - through to full scale replicas of the domestic spaces and studios he has inhabited over the course of his life. Realised in diverse materials, from steel military 'dog tags' to fabric to mulberry paper, these intimate and evocative artworks can be walked around, through and within.

The MCA exhibition delves into Suh's ongoing exploration of belonging, identity and home. Encompassing portraiture and architectural references, Suh's works have a distinctive biographical dimension in their evocation of the artist's childhood and schooling in South Korea, the family home in which he grew up, and his relocation to cities including New York, Berlin and London and the various spaces he has lived in as an adult.

**Do Ho Suh, *Staircase-III*, 2010, installation view, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2022, polyester fabric, stainless steel, Tate: Purchased with funds provided by the Asia Pacific Acquisitions Committee 2011, image courtesy the artist and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, © Do Ho Suh, photograph: Anna Kučera**

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Curated by guest curator Rachel Kent, Chief Executive Officer, Bundanon Trust NSW, with Megan Robson, Associate Curator, Exhibitions, MCA, the exhibition brings together significant loans from public and private collections, alongside a major new installation.

***Rubbing/Loving Project: Seoul Home*** (2013–2022) is a new large-scale work which will be presented in the MCA's Level 1 North gallery. In this ambitious project, the artist has meticulously recreated the exterior of his childhood home in Seoul, a traditional Korean *hanok* house with its characteristic tiled, curved roof, through a series of graphite and mulberry paper rubbings, which remained on the original building for almost a year.



**Do Ho Suh, *Rubbing/Loving Project: Seoul Home*, 2013–2022, installation view, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2022, graphite on mulberry paper, aluminium, image courtesy the artist and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, © Do Ho Suh, photograph: Jessica Maurer. Do Ho Suh, *Rubbing/Loving Project: Seoul Home*, 2013–2022, work in progress, Seoul, image courtesy and © Do Ho Suh, photograph: Min Jung Lee**

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A major display of the artist's **Hub** series of sculptures will also be installed at the MCA Australia. Gallery visitors will be able to walk around and through six brightly coloured, interconnecting fabric structures that replicate transitional spaces such as corridors, entry ways and foyers.

Another exhibition highlight is **Staircase-III** (2010), on loan from the Tate Collection. Recreated at one-to-one scale in translucent red fabric, Staircase-III refers to the narrow wooden staircase that connected Suh's apartment with his landlord's home above, in New York, where Suh lived for twenty years. Bridging worlds, the staircase connects and separates physical space, as well as the lives and memories within.

**Floor** (1997-2000) and **Who Am We? (Multicoloured)** (2000) will be presented together in one of the MCA Australia's largest galleries. The vast floor-based installation, *Floor*, features thousands of tiny, sculpted figures. With arms upraised, they collectively support transparent glass plates over which visitors walk. Wrapping around the gallery walls, *Who Am We? (Multicoloured)* is a custom wallpaper printed with multiple tiny portraits, their individuality evident only on close inspection.

Suh's key work, **Metal Jacket** (1992-2001), comprises stainless-steel military identification tags overlain like roof shingles or fish scales, one upon the next, into a traditional Korean *hanbok* robe with outstretched arms. Recalling the artist's experience of military service in South Korea, the tags themselves suggest the individuality of the countless servicemen and women they are named after.

**Suzanne Cotter, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia Director**, said, "Do Ho Suh has been an indelible and eloquent and unforgettable presence for contemporary art in the world for over three decades. The MCA is thrilled to present this first, major survey of the artist's work in the Southern Hemisphere as part of this year's Sydney International Art Series. The exhibition continues our twelve-year run of bringing to the MCA exhibitions of today's most significant artists. Its intelligence and beauty is pure joy and a gift to everyone who will visit."

**Do Ho Suh**, *Hub* series, installation view, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2022, polyester fabric, stainless steel, image courtesy the artist and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, © Do Ho Suh, photograph: Anna Kučera

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**Artist Do Ho Suh** said “It is hugely exciting for me to be exhibiting this body of work at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. The exhibition traces the journey of my practice over multiple decades and it is a privilege to be inhabiting MCA’s beautiful galleries, and to be showing in Australia. Much of my work is taken up with the idea of how we clothe our movements through the world – through time (linear and non-linear) and place. I’m interested in survival techniques, the spaces we carry within, as well as those we occupy externally. I hope the exhibition will strike a chord at a time when we have all been forced to consider the boundaries and strictures of different spaces anew.”

**Guest curator Rachel Kent**, notes: “Do Ho Suh’s evocative artworks sit at the intersection of memory, place and diasporic experience. Reflecting on his own life journey, and the spaces he has inhabited from Seoul to New York to London, they gently map a wider communal experience. If the body is a vessel and the home (or artist’s studio) is its container, Suh’s works suggest the traces of a thousand lives lived, with points of intersection and divergence interwoven through. Encompassing translucent fabric, thread and rubbings on paper, as well as other, more enduring materials, Suh’s works sit between the collective and the individual -reminding us of our shared humanity, and equally, the fine balance between inner and outer worlds.”

## Publication

A beautifully designed publication features commissioned essays by curators Rachel Kent and Megan Robson, and architectural historian AnnMarie Brennan, along with rich illustrations of Do Ho Suh’s acclaimed artworks and installations. The catalogue is available to purchase from the MCA store and online.

**Do Ho Suh, *Metal Jacket***, 1992–2001, 3000 dog tags on U.S. military jacket fabric liner, image courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul and London, © Do Ho Suhraph: Antoine van Kaam



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## Public Engagement Program

A series of talks, workshops performances and film screenings will accompany the exhibition, including a free **Family Space: Draw Home** which offers free hands-on artmaking activities, lunchtime talks, live music, and a dedicated **MCA Late program, Finding Home**, on 25 November 2022. The MCA will present a series of events in partnership with the Korean Cultural Centre such as K-Pop dance classes, film screenings, and exhibition tours in English and Korean. Experimental jazz drummer Chloe Kim will perform a new composition in response to the exhibition on 19 January 2023, in partnership with the Sydney Festival. The MCA Terrace Cafe will also offer a special Korean food and beverage menu throughout summer.

A **special in-conversation event** between Do Ho Suh and guest curator Rachel Kent will be held on 18 November 2022 at 6.30pm.

Visitors to the exhibition will also be able to listen to a free audio guide in English and Korean, access Auslan and audio-described resources, or view a range of audio-visual content about the artworks on the mobile Museum guide [mca.art](https://mca.art).

Tickets to Do Ho Suh are available to purchase from [mca.com.au](https://mca.com.au). The exhibition is free to MCA members.

The MCA would like to thank Strategic Sponsor of this exhibition Destination NSW, Exhibition Major Partners Genesis and Telstra, Supporting Partners Oceania Cruises and Ray White. We acknowledge Exhibition Patrons, GRANTPIRRIE Private and K & S Martin-Weber, Supporting Patron Warwick Evans, and Exhibition Supporting Foundations The Korea Foundation and Henry Moore Foundation.

The **Sydney International Arts Series** was created in 2010 by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Art Gallery of New South Wales, to bring the world's most outstanding exhibitions exclusively to Sydney.

**Do Ho Suh, Hub series,**  
installation view,  
Museum of  
Contemporary Art  
Australia, Sydney, 2022,  
polyester fabric,  
stainless steel, image  
courtesy the artist and  
Museum of  
Contemporary Art  
Australia, © Do Ho Suh,  
photograph: Anna  
Kučera

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## About the Artist

South Korean artist Do Ho Suh (b. 1962, Seoul) works across artistic media, creating drawings, films, installation and sculptural works that question concepts of home, identity, individuality, memory, migration and space. Since the 1990s the artist has exhibited in over 250 exhibitions including presentations at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa; AROS, Aarhus; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Hayward Gallery, London; Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul; Serpentine Galleries, London; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. The artist's work has been collected by major public and private art collections internationally. He has been commissioned to create large-scale public artworks in numerous cities worldwide including Istanbul, Gwangju, London, New York, San Diego and Seoul. In 2001 Do Ho Suh represented Korea at the Venice Biennale and in 2018 he participated in the Venice Biennale of Architecture. In 2013 the artist was named Wall Street Journal Magazine's Innovator of the Year in Art.

**Do Ho Suh**, photograph:  
Daniel Dorsa

***Do Ho Suh* is on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia from the 4 November 2022 – 26 February 2023.**

## For more information, interviews and images, contact:

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# MCA Australia announces its major summer exhibition by internationally renowned artist Do Ho Suh

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