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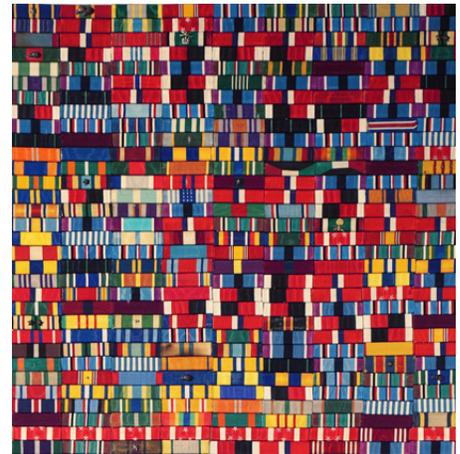
Hong Seon Jang: *waxed / waned*

October 17 – November 15, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, October 17, 7 - 9pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to welcome the New York-based installation artist Hong Seon Jang for his second solo exhibition at the gallery in Denver, CO. Opening on Friday, October 17, Jang's exhibition features six new works, including installations created in iterations just for the gallery. In *waxed/waned* Jang explores contextual displacement and societal power struggles through his transformative manipulation of materials. By transforming commonplace objects into new and unusual forms, Jang creates moments of both recognition and vulnerability. Jang's artworks, often installation-oriented and all-encompassing environments, are constructed from a variety of materials - from common, found objects to unique items that he procures through extensive searches. By turning these items into art objects, Jang re-frames perceptions and common contextual associations built around them by society.

A central work in the exhibition is *Prayer Rug*. This piece, which from a distance appears to be a simple, colorful rug, consists of a pattern comprised entirely of military ribbons from a wide range of countries. This new work demonstrates Jang's unique ability to utilize a familiar, though uncommon, object to create a distinct shift in perspective. Military ribbons, awarded as recognition for outstanding service or bravery on the battlefield, are combined in jarring fashion with the recognizable form of the prayer rug, a significant and holy item for many cultures. By pairing two icons of power structures—military and religion—this work explores the concept of contextual displacement and power struggle, and undermines the traditional paradigms of objects that exist within modern society and culture. Another installation, *Minerals*, consists of small sculptures made entirely of pounded aluminum foil, shaped into the forms of crystals. Jang defies the associations generally connected to aluminum foil, a highly manufactured, and very cheap, material, by shaping it into natural rock formations, upending conventional value systems within modern society. By redefining the function and roles embedded within the materials in all the artworks in the exhibition, Jang both subverts and distorts their traditional meanings, while bringing to the forefront the objects' material value and, subsequently, the value of the time, history, place, and event that the object is meant to commemorate within everyday life.



Hong Seon Jang, *Prayer Rug*, detail, 2014, military ribbons mounted on military tent fabric, 63 x 48 in. (160 x 122 cm)

About Hong Seon Jang

Hong Seon Jang received an MFA in Imaging Art from Rochester Institute of Technology and a BFA from Dan Kook University in South Korea. His work has been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at institutions both nationally and internationally, including the Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY; the Wellin Museum of Art, Clinton, NY; Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY; Dumbo Art Center, Brooklyn, NY; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY; the Cohen Gallery at the Granoff Center at Brown University, Providence, RI; the Chashama Windows Program, Donnell New York Public Library, NY; Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA; Gallery of Korea, NY; Fine Arts Gallery at San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA; the Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea; and PS122 Gallery, NY. Jang received the Urban Artist Initiative Grant at the Lower East Side Printshop during his 2011 Special Editions Residency. Other residencies and awards include the Elizabeth Foundations for the Arts, NY; The Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning Workspace Program, Jamaica, NY; Museum of Arts and Design, Open Studios, NY; Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE; and the Triangle Artists' Workshop Program, NY. Jang was recently selected to complete a Percent for Art project for PS339 in Woodside, New York. Jang lives and works in New York City.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. The gallery specializes in the exhibition and sale of progressive contemporary artwork from emerging and mid-career international artists. Founded in 2007, the gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David B. Smith Gallery has grown a strong regional, national and international audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery is located on Wazee Street in the historic LoDo neighborhood of Denver. In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith Gallery maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues, monographs, and limited edition artist prints.