



Art | Basel Paris


October 24–26, 2025

Lee ShinJa

Premise Sector

The Grand Palais
Booth 1.J2

TINA KIM GALLERY

A photograph of Lee ShinJa, a Korean fiber artist, working on a textile piece. She is wearing glasses and a dark jacket, focused on her work. The background is filled with shelves of colorful yarn and thread, creating a rich, textured environment. The lighting is warm and focused on the artist and her work.

Lee ShinJa (b. 1930)

Uljin, Korea
Lives and works in Seoul

Lee ShinJa is a pioneering first-generation Korean fiber artist and educator. During the 1950s and '60s, when working with thread and fabric was considered domestic labor, Lee broke new ground in the evolution of Korean craft. Against the conventions of traditional craft, she experimented with modern formal techniques, driving innovations in embroidery, dyeing, weaving, and tapestry to expand the breadth and depth of the genre, which at the time was still unestablished.

Lee's work as an artist and educator transcends individual artistic achievement, leaving a unique legacy in the history of Korean fiber art and propelling the elevation of craft into fine art. As a founding member of the Korean Fiber Artists Association, she led the first edition of the Korean Fiber Art Biennale in 1984, and she served as the association's president in 1986, steering the renaissance of Korean fiber art. From 1965 to 1997, she served as a professor at Duksung Women's University, where she broke away from the traditional apprenticeship model in favor of a craft curriculum based on creativity, a shift that significantly influenced pedagogical practice. From 1997 to 2012, she operated Gallery Wooduk, an exhibition space supporting younger artists. She has been an active member of the Korean National Academy of Arts since 1997, and, in 1999, the Korean government awarded her the Silver Crown Order of Cultural Merit for her contributions to national cultural development.

Lee's oeuvre has been exhibited widely in major solo exhibitions across Korea and abroad at galleries and institutions such as Press Center (1965), Gallery Hyundai (1983), Seoul Arts Center's Hangaram Art Museum (1993), the Republic of Korea's National Academy of Arts (2003) and more. In 2023, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) in Gwacheon, Korea, presented her retrospective "Threadscapes," which shed new light on the world of a pioneer who opened up the possibilities of fiber art. She has also participated in a number of group exhibitions including ones at MMCA Deoksugung (1986), Ho-Am Art Museum (1988), and Jakarta Textile Museum (2000), and biennials like the 5th Lausanne-Beijing International Fiber Art Biennale at Tsinghua University Academy of Arts and Design (2008). Lee's works are housed in the collections of major institutions such as the National Museum of Korea, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the Seoul Museum of Art, the Seoul Museum of Craft Art, Sookmyung Women's University, Duksung Women's University, and elsewhere.



Work I, 1959

Cotton, linen, and wool thread on
cotton cloth; coiling, free technique
30 x 29 in
76.2 x 73.7 cm

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Conversation between Circles IV, 1973

Cotton, linen thread; tapestry

Left panel:

68½ x 21 in

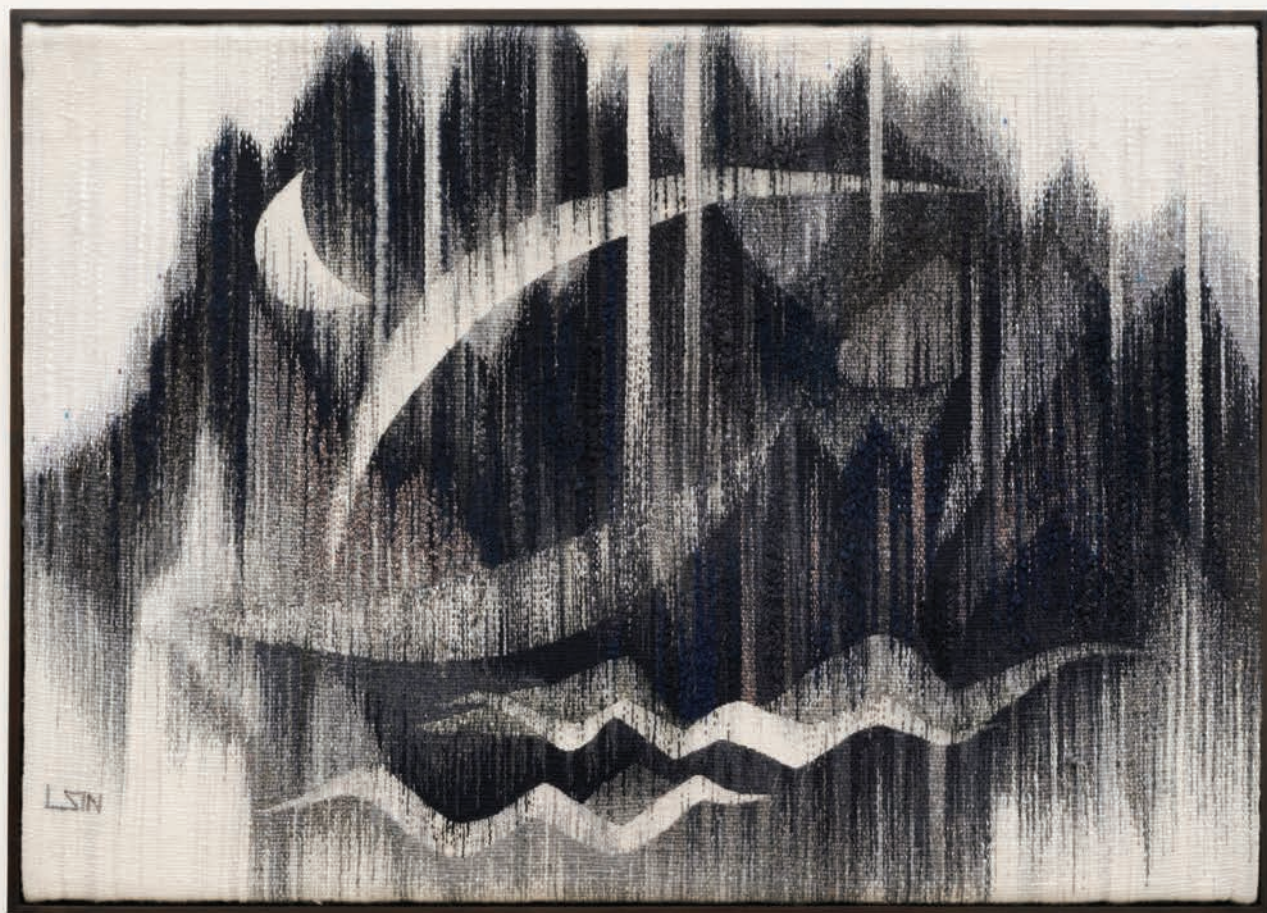
175 x 55 cm

Right panel:

70 x 22½ in

177 x 57 cm

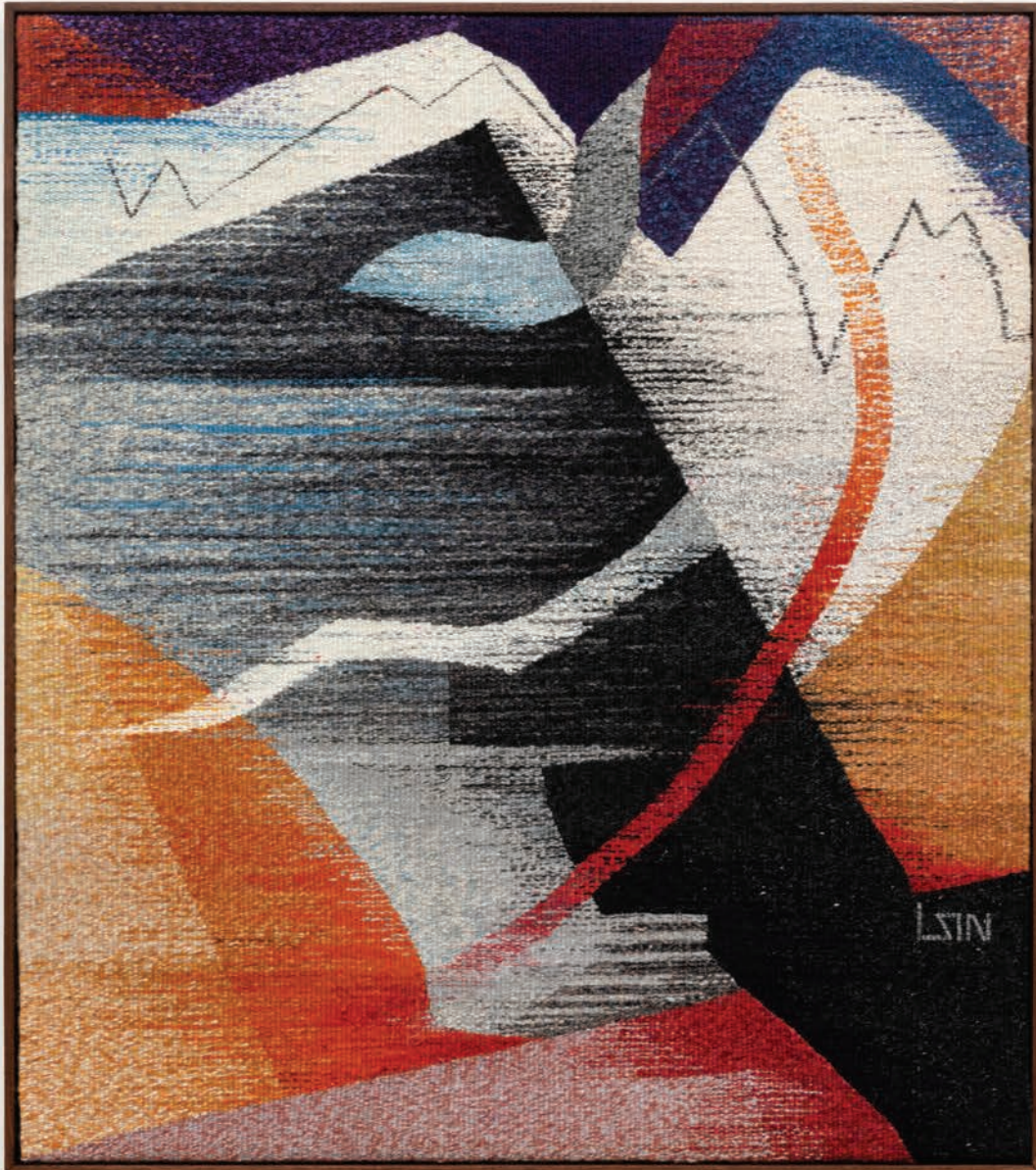
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Mountain of Elegance, 1987

Wool thread; tapestry
43 x 60 in
109.2 x 152.4 cm
(Framed)

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Growth I, 1990s

Wool thread; tapestry
50 x 44 7/8 in
127 x 113.9 cm
(Framed)

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Spirit of Mountain, 1990s–2000s

Wool thread; tapestry
40 x 50 in
102 x 127 cm
(Framed)

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Spirit of Mountain, 1994

Wool thread, metal; tapestry
25¼ x 32¼ in
64 x 81.3 cm
(Framed)

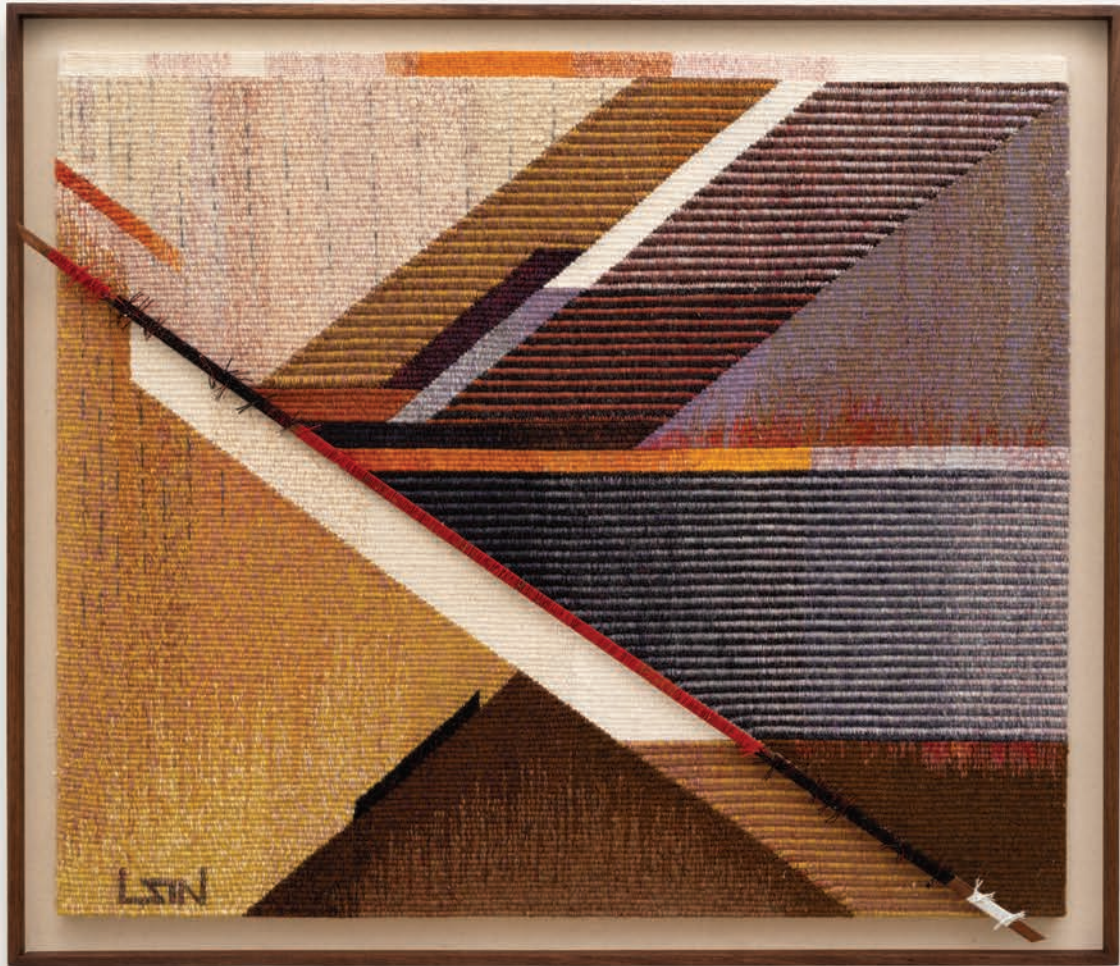
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Spirit of Mountain, 2000

Wool thread, metal; tapestry
24 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 38 $\frac{5}{8}$ in
61.9 x 98 cm

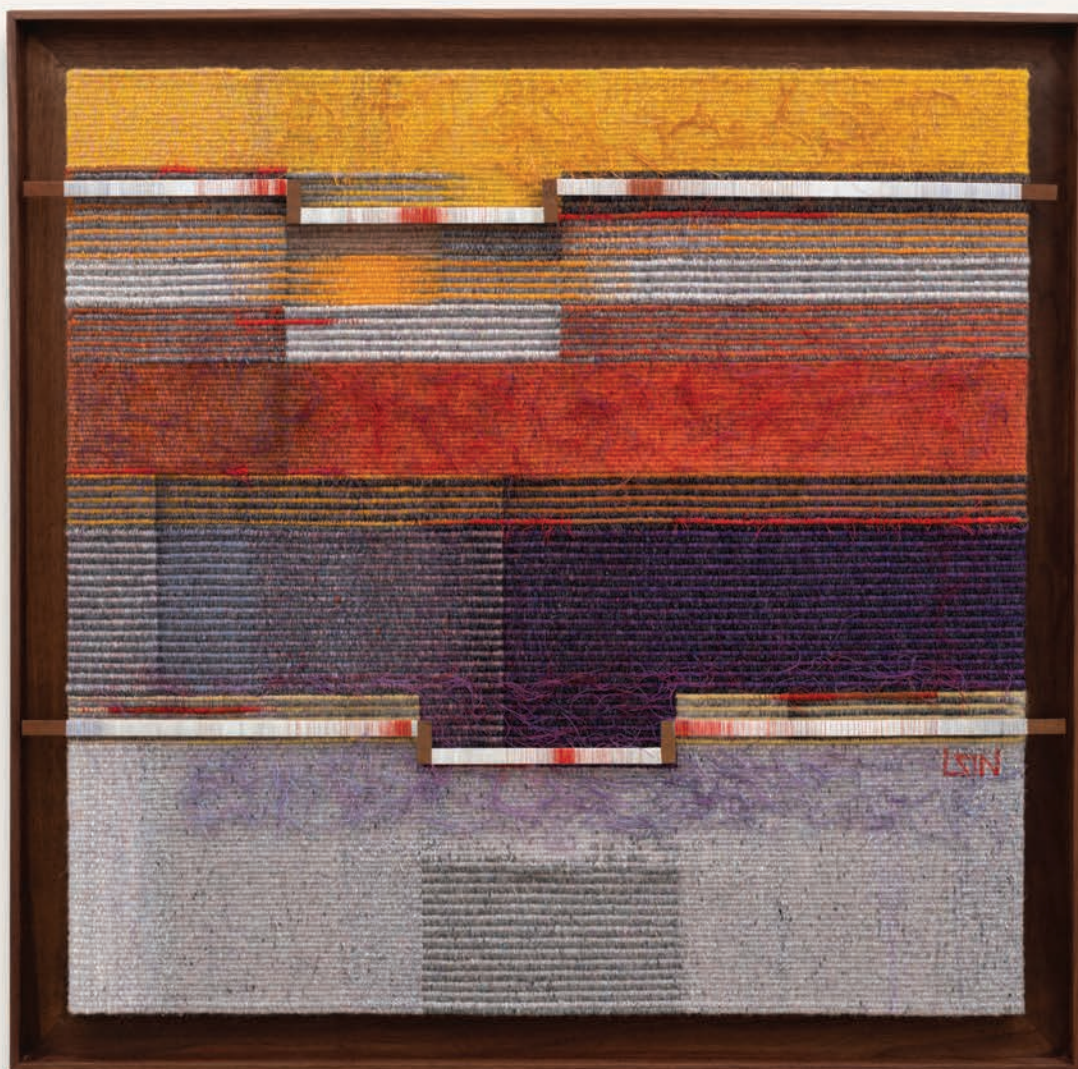
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Open the Horizon II, 2003

Wool thread, metal; tapestry
31 x 36¾ in
78.7 x 93.3 cm

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Untitled, 2008

Wool thread, metal; tapestry
37 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 34 in
95 x 86.5 cm

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Untitled, 2008

Wool thread; tapestry
25 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 25 in
65 x 63.5 cm
(Framed)

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Encounter, 1998

Wood, felt, copper wire, red copper;
stitch and coiling
20 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 18 $\frac{7}{8}$ in
51 x 48 cm

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Hope, 2011

Wool, hologram thread, copper; tapestry
13¾ x 13¾ in
35 x 35 cm

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Lee Shinja: Drawing with Thread

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive
(BAMPFA)



Installation view of *Lee Shinja: Drawing with Thread*, August 6, 2025–February 1, 2026,
at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), Berkeley, CA.

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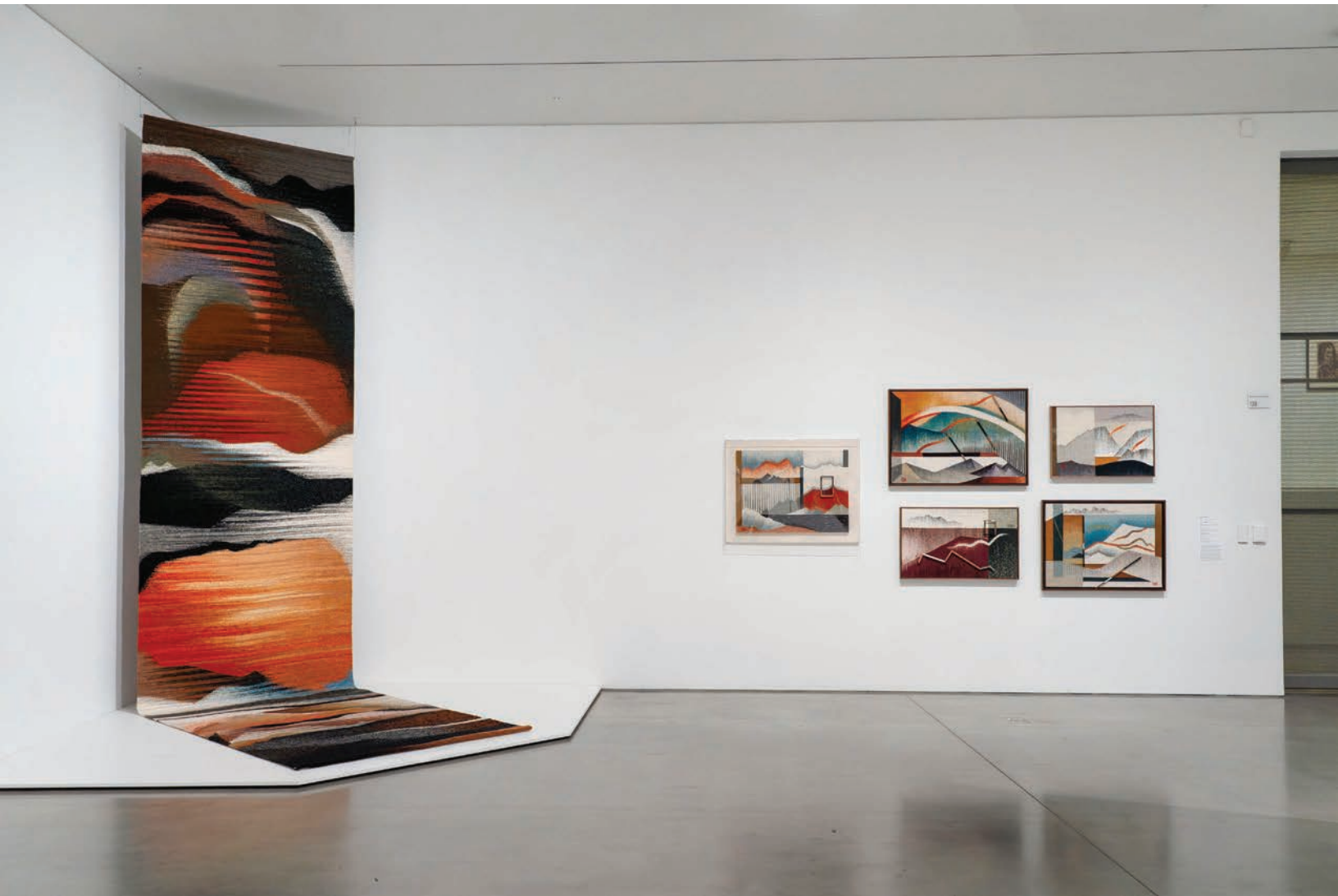


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Lee Shinja: Threadscales

National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA)



Installation view of *Lee Shinja: Threadscales*, 2023, at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea.

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Lee Shinja: Threadscares

National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA)



Installation view of *Lee Shinja: Threadscares*, 2023, at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea.

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Lee Shinja: Threadscapes

National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA)



Installation view of *Lee Shinja: Threadscapes*, 2023, at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea.

SALES INQUIRIES

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