

# Threads and Light: Wonju Seo's exhibit at the Charles B. Wang Center

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Featured artist Wonju Seo and Jinyoung Jin, director of Asian Art and Culture at the Wang Center

Ed Shin

The Charles B. Wang Center welcomed a full house for the opening of its fall exhibition, *Through the Light: Contemporary Jogakbo* by Wonju Seo. The exhibition explores the luminous possibilities of Korean patchwork (*jogakbo*) in a contemporary idiom, transforming the Wang Center's galleries into a serene, radiant field of stitched transparencies — panels of organza, silk, and ramie that capture and release light with every movement of the viewer.

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Curated by Dr. Jinyoung Anna Jin, Director of Asian Art and Culture at the Wang Center, the exhibition centers on Seo's celebrated fabric works and site-specific installations, inviting viewers to read fabric and thread as one might read ink—for rhythm, pause, and breath.



Through My WindowEd Shin

“Wonju Seo’s work reveals how deeply she values both tradition and innovation — honoring the Korean practice of patchwork while pushing it into bold, contemporary directions,” Jin remarked at the reception. “She has always believed that making with our own hands is a way of connecting — with ourselves, with one another, and with the generations who came before us.”

At the heart of the exhibition is a renewed encounter with *White Wonderland* (2015), an installation that has been a beloved presence at the Wang Center since 2015. As one of the Center’s most cherished permanent works, it has long captured the imagination of visitors. Now, reintroduced in harmony with Seo’s recent creations, it reveals both continuity and transformation, showing how her vision has deepened and evolved over the past decade.



Road – Map PaintingEd Shin

Seo's work reflects not only her artistic journey but also her personal path from Korea to the United States, interwoven with memories of her childhood. "I'm always thinking about how fabric holds time," she said. "When you stitch, you're not just joining materials — you're joining moments. Each overlap gathers light differently, like distinct memories living together."

## ADVERTISING

Beyond its visual calm, *Through the Light* argues for the cultural and ecological intelligence of *jogakbo*. Historically, patchwork emerged from necessity and thrift, but its logics — repair, recomposition, zero waste — resonate pointedly now.

The exhibition also extends into public programming. On Sept. 27, Seo led a [hands-on workshop](#) where participants practiced basic *jogakbo* techniques and reflected on how reuse can serve as both an aesthetic method and an ethical stance.





Wonju Seo thanking everyone who attended her exhibitionEd Shin

In addition, a shadow puppet performance inspired by *jogakbo* will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Titled *Wrapped Presence*, the program features puppeteers Caroline Borderies and Christian Barthod, with music and sound by Andre Bregegere and narration by Tessa Souter.

The performance unfolds through spare, intricate illustrations and shifting lighting palettes, moving from stark black and white to a burst of riotous color. Dr. Jin created these programs as an integral part of the Wang Center's mission. "We want visitors to carry something tangible out of the gallery — not only an image, but a skill, a mindset, a way of paying attention," she noted.

*Through the Light: Contemporary Jogakbo by Wonju Seo* is on view through Dec. 31 at the Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University.

Gallery hours, workshop details, and admission information are available at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org).



Stephanie Lee, Wonju Seo and Sui Park





Ingrid Mittendorf and Donna Rodman



Hobong Kim, Sui Park, Wonju Seo and Namjoo Kim









Club Red Committee Chair Fred Friedberg



Karen Levitov, director of the Zuccaire Gallery at the Staller Center, and Wonju Seo





Eric Murphy, assistant to the director of Asian Art and Culture; Karin Muscarella, Wang Center director of Conference Operations; Diana Hannan, Wang Center executive director; and Jinyoung Jin  
For more [scene & seen event photos](#), [click here](#).