



art21.org/hyeree-ro



Hyeree Ro

ABOUT

Born

1987 (Seoul, South Korea)

Education

Korea National University of Arts, BFA
Yale School of Art, MFA

Lives and Works

Brooklyn, NY; Seoul, South Korea

About the Artist

Ro’s work is purposefully puzzling, giving viewers the space to draw their own conclusions and fill the work with their own thoughts and histories. Through her enigmatic assemblages, the artist works to transcend language and specific cultural contexts to access a more universal and observational understanding through feeling and sensing. Ro’s sculptural installation *Niro* (2024), a skeletal, wooden reconstruction of her late father’s Kia Niro car, is activated through a series of performances that deconstruct her relationship with her father and the concept of the road trip. In her performance, the artist laboriously deconstructs the model Niro and drags it through the space while reciting snippets of prose in English and Korean that describe her complex relationship with her father and his passing.

“Being precisely ambiguous is important to me because when you are puzzled by what you’re seeing, you see things more closely.” —Hyeree Ro

TEACHING CONNECTIONS

Media and Materials

ceramics
found objects
installation
performance
sculpture

Key Words and Ideas

destiny
family
language
loss
materiality

meaning
sound
space
symbolism

Related Artists

El Anatsui
Janine Antoni
Meriem Bennani
LaToya Ruby
Frazier
Joan Jonas
Tommy Kha
Hannah Levy
Xin Liu

Candice Lin
Cannupa Hanska
Luger
Tau Lewis
Guadalupe Maravilla
Song Dong
Aki Sasamoto
Rose B. Simpson
Do Ho Suh

How to Use This Guide

Art21 encourages active engagement when teaching with our films. The questions and activities below are recommendations for incorporating Art21 films featuring Hyeree Ro into your classroom. Each class will likely require different adaptations for best results.

NOTE: Please view all films before sharing them with your students.

Before Viewing

Establish key ideas, in anticipation of viewing the film(s):

- ① How can artists be inspired by memories?
- ② What is your relationship to silence?
- ③ How do you feel when you can't understand something?

While Viewing

Support active viewing, and pause the film to clarify particular ideas:

- ① What memories does Ro describe in the film?
- ② How does Ro use silence in her work?
- ③ Why is Ro interested in translation?

After Viewing

Follow-up on key ideas and synthesize information learned from the film(s):

- ① Why might it be useful to recreate memories?
- ② How can silence be contemplative?
- ③ What can we learn from moments of not understanding and/or being misunderstood?



Related Activities

Engaging in creative activities after watching Art21 films can reinforce learning and stimulate ideas. Art21 encourages educators to adapt these activities to their classrooms.

- ✓ In Ro's work *Niro* (2024), she recounts memories of road trips with her father. What types of travel do you experience (i.e. traveling to school, the grocery store, or vacation)? How do they differ based on who is with you? Make a travel sketchbook depicting the different sounds or smells you experience with each person you travel or commute with.
- ✓ In the film Ro says she wants object, movement, and language to each exist on their own, and then tries to figure out how they can coexist in performance. Drawing inspiration from this, work in a group of three and have one person pick an object, one person come up with a movement, and one person come up with a word. Then, as a group, make a performance using all three.
- ✓ Write a poem about someone important to you using both your native language and second or third language spoken. Reflect on how the two languages describe that person.



Did you use this guide, Art21 films, or Art21-featured artists in your classroom? If so, tag Art21 on social media or email us at education@art21.org.