

KEYSOOK GEUM

ENLIGHTENMENT AND RESONANCE

In her exacting sculptural objects of haute couture and traditional Korean dresses, gowns, and coats, Keysook Geum uses a wide range of signature materials, including wire, beads, buttons, paper, silver foil, pearls, and spangle, to make porous forms which invite the viewer's boundless speculation. Whether an evening gown or a hanbok, the dresses represent ways women from Western and Eastern cultures present themselves during ritual occasions, such as a ball, gala, festival, or a wedding. Ritualized presentations are, of course, integral to every culture. Originating in a culture's history, and changing slowly over time, the dresses and gowns evoke the indispensable role women play in every society, as well as embody a culture's deepest stories.

In their sensitivity to light and shadow, Geum's glamorous and vulnerable, wall-mounted, hanging, and freestanding sculptural objects convey change, endurance, and ephemerality. *Enlightenment in Red* (2023) is a red wire and beaded, free-hanging dress. The red wire and beads floating like a wall of leaves above the dress convey change, but that is not all. Was the dress born from mythical nature or is it dissipating? That tension can also be found in *Resonance in White* (2025), where parts of the white dress seem to be floating out of the hip. We don't know exactly what the dress is becoming, but we believe the transformation will be profound.

Geum's permeable works exist on the verge between form and dissolution without either dominating the other. That strain invites all kinds of readings regarding the legacy of history, and the struggle between limitation and freedom. At the same time, the beauty of these works is undeniable. Her use of colored beads and wires suggests veins, arteries, and cells—nature's inevitable growth and cycles of regeneration. Few sculptors are able to summon so many associations in a single work. As immediate as they are in their sensuousness, delicacy, and sturdiness, Geum's dresses remain mysterious, a dance of light and shadow, of time passing. Her work is unlike anything else being made, and speaks to us on so many levels.

John Yau

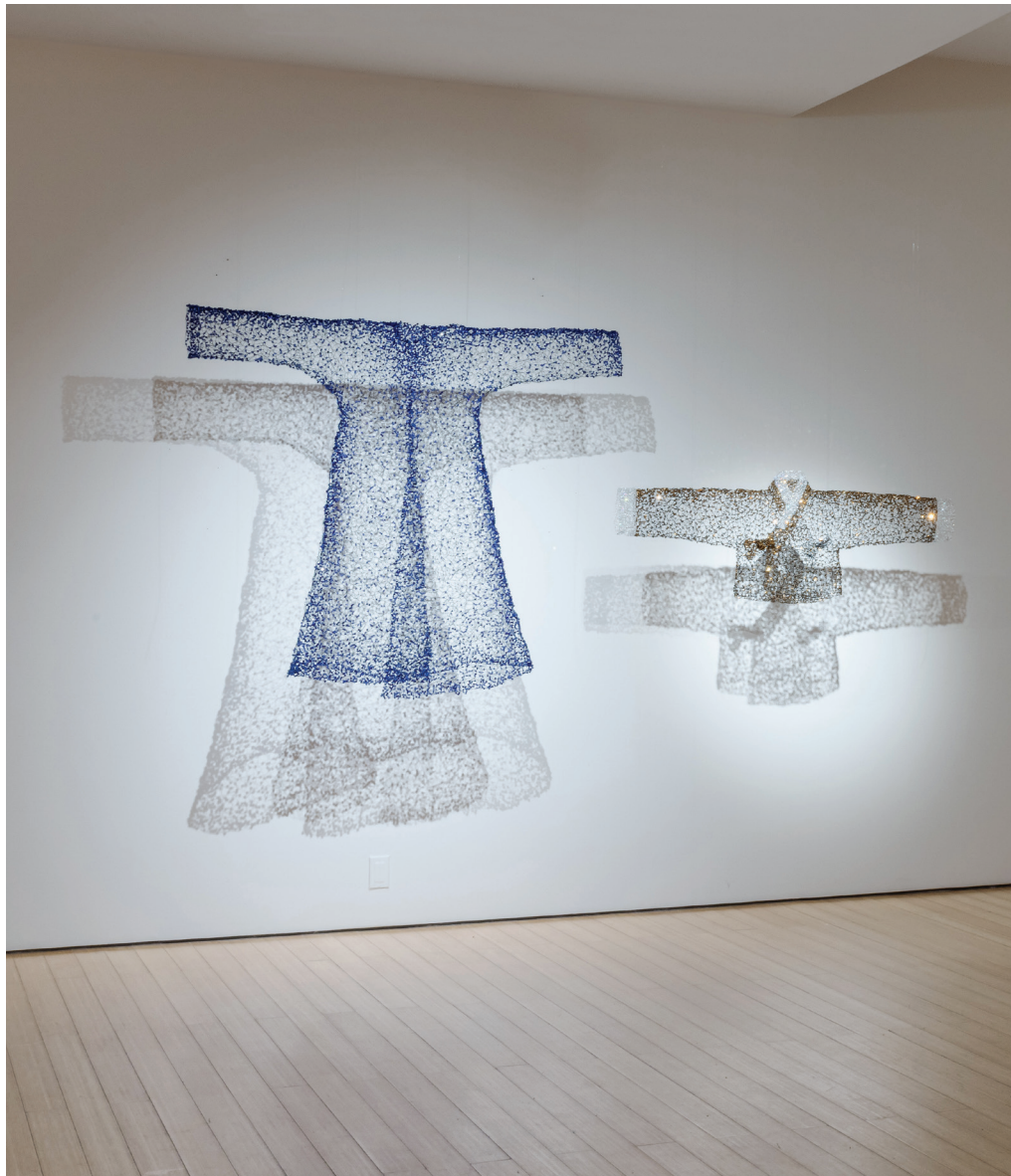
RECEPTION: SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND 6–9 PM

EXHIBITION DATES: AUGUST 1ST - SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2025



Keysook Geum at Callan Contemporary

Front cover: *Enlightenment in Rose and Beige Pearls*
black wire, rose and beige pearls, 30" x 18" x 11"



Enlightenment and Resonance, Callan Contemporary (exhibition view) 2025





Enlightenment in White Pearls, wire and pearls, 31" x 21" x 11"

Nirvana III, black wire with gold plated beads with signature, 66" x 35" x 9"

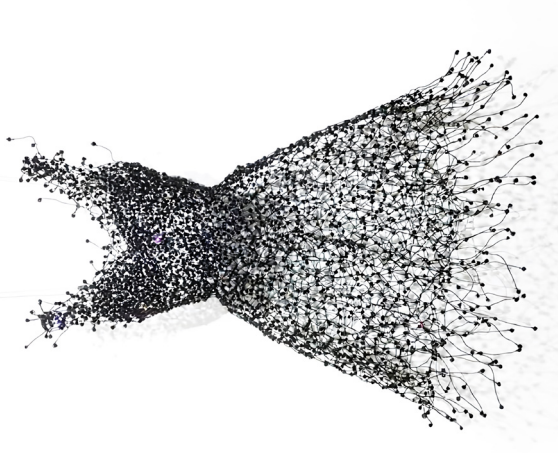


Enlightenment in Red, red wire, red beads

Dress 44" x 34" x 20" (Installation element) 42" x 74"

CALLAN CONTEMPORARY

518 Julia Street | New Orleans, LA 70130



Velvet Plum, wire and beads, 38" x 30" x 27"

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