

*With a heart that sings the stars, I will love all things dying, 2023*  
Woojae Kim

Worm bin: paper pulp, coconut coir, earthworms, rope, rock

Table: paper pulp, coconut coir, wood, clay, mugwort incense, dried mugwort

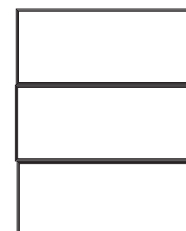
Speakers: cob bricks, paper, speakers, bells, decomposed plant matter

Ledge: unfired clay, mugwort incense, dried mugwort, decomposed plant matter, eggshells

Window sill: mugwort plants fertilized with worm casting, paper pulp, coconut coir

Curtain: unfired clay, bells

Rain collector: cob bricks, dishware, plant pot, decomposed plant matter, stainless steel bowl, rock



## **With a heart that sings the stars, I will love all things dying**

Woojae Kim

April 2, 2023 - May 14, 2023

In this room, Woojae Kim assembles a series of artworks, objects and writing that come out of his experience taking care of earthworms and mugwort plants in the months leading up to this installation. During this time, Woojae integrated these living things and their needs into his daily life and routines: feeding the worms food scraps from his kitchen and taking care of them in a bin in his studio and then using the nutrient rich compost they produce to cultivate the mugwort plants that sit in the window sill in his home. Mugwort is an herb Woojae grew up around. It is used in medicinal, food and other applications in Korea. It is also believed to give one vivid dreams. The relationship that Woojae has cultivated with these flora and fauna over time, and the influences, effects and transformations that this practice has on every body involved provide an opportunity to reflect on process and care, emphasizing a kind of mutualistic relation formed through repetition and ritual.

In this room, mugworts and earthworms are presented and rendered in multiple forms, and become indexical emblems of Woojae's practice and process. Earthworms sit silently in the corner of the room inside a handmade composting bin. It is made of the same materials as the worms' bedding. In the other corners, a pair of enshrouded speakers emanate a chorus of mechanical chirps made by crickets. This sound is misidentified as worms' cries in a Korean idiom. Through this fictitious ambient subterranean cry, we are listening to the worms, calling to mind the thought and attention Woojae gives his worms in his day to day interactions, handling and taking care of them. He sculpts earthworms out of unfired clay to form the beaded strands that dress the room's window. The window looks out into a sculpture that collects rainwater for the seedlings that now sit on the windowsill. Mugworts, dried stalks and long-ish skinny incense tubes, are placed on a low table in the centre of the room. When burnt, like in moxibustion, mugwort fills the air with a rich aroma. These smells and sounds offer a temporal window for an encounter with the animals and materials that are here. In *With a heart that sings the stars, I will love all things dying*, Woojae invites viewers to attune to these personal associations, relationships, rituals and rhythms momentarily.

**Woojae Kim** is an artist who combines his research on biology with somatic experiences. He lives in Vancouver, on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səl'ílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.