

# Yoorim Ko

## About Yoorim

*Yoorim Ko is a seoul-born, New York-basea artist. She is currently completing her MFA in Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts (graduating May 2026) and received her BFA in Ceramic Art and Design from Seoul National University of Science and Technology in 2023. Working across painting, drawing, and installation, her practice explores psychological and spatial relationships through material and form. She has exhibited in New York, including EMBLEMATA at Alter Space, and is a recipient of the Kunstraum Residency in Brooklyn. This month, Yoorim participated in the Hong Kong Art Expo.*

## The Paradox of the Comfort Zone

My work explores the paradox of the comfort zone, a space where protection and restriction coexist. After moving from Seoul to New York, I began to question and realize how the very structures that once provided a sense of stability could, in fact, constrain personal growth. Working across various media, including painting, drawing, and installation, I utilize unstretched canvases and spatial forms to examine growth as a condition born from the interplay between inner expansion and external constraint. Organic forms and layered surfaces reflect this inherent tension, marking the points where forces collide, resist, and undergo transformation.

*Through the interconnected bodies of the cell and the shell, I visualize the relationship between inner vitality and external limitation. Rather than proposing escape, my work invites viewers to reflect on how their own boundaries shift and how growth emerges through friction. By extending painting into three-dimensional space, I treat the surface not as a fixed boundary, but as a responsive membrane. This approach reveals underlying tensions and maintains instability not as a problem to be resolved, but as an active and dynamic condition.*



Up: *Cell 09*, 2026, Colored pencil and acrylic on paper, 36 x 36 in  
Down: *Butter, before fly*, 2025  
Acrylic, oil pastel and colored pencil on canvas



Up: *Untitled*, 2026, Acrylic, colored pencil and oil pastel on canvas, 60 x 91 in  
Down: *Cell and Shell*, 2026, Acrylic, oil pastel on canvas, 60 x 69 in