

Portfolio / Aoi Yoshizawa

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Not Big Enough - Solo exhibition

Making warp threads, sewing and sanding wooden pieces, assembling wooden pieces into heddles, threading warp threads into heddles, hanging loom structure with ropes and stone in plastic bags

w 370 x h 880 cm

HAA Gallery, Helsinki / 2024





Close-up view (handmade wooden heddles & stones in plastic bags)

NOT BIG ENOUGH is a loom installation built from handmade wooden tools and repurposed yarns, suspended in space. This large-scale loom is developed throughout my artistic research project I AM A WEAVER, in which I explored traditional weaving methods and reinterpreted them with my technical curiosity. The installation, which combines ancient weaving techniques with a backstrap and warp-weighted loom, balances itself between wall structures using stones placed in plastic bags. The idea for the artwork was developed during the artist's residency at HIAP Suomenlinna, whose layout and spatial details echo those of the HAA Gallery.

Heirloom

Making warp threads, sawing bags and ribbons, sewing and sanding wooden pieces, assembling wooden pieces into heddles, threading warp threads and ribbons into heddles, hanging loom structure with ropes and stone in fabric bags

w 150 x h 340 cm

Schloss Hollenegg, Austria / 2025





Close-up view at the group exhibition Knit and Weave

Heirloom is a site-specific loom installation inspired by the colours and decorative elements of the castle Schloss Hollenegg, presented at the exhibition Knit and Weave.

The warp yarns of the loom emerge from the mural, following its colour arrangements and extending outwards as a spatial installation. The structure of the loom incorporates elements of ancient weaving techniques. Instead of traditional weights, stones are placed in fabric bags to help balance the loom diagonally within the space. Through the combination of ancient and contemporary techniques and materials, the installation reveals the stories of textile-making and highlighting the link between past and present.

Diagonal Weighted Loom

Warping repurposed yarns, sawing and sanding wood materials, knotting cotton yarns to create heddle systems, hanging the loom with help of stones, weaving with repurposed ribbons and fabrics

w 240 cm h 250 cm d 250 cm / 2022

The installation Diagonal Weighted Loom is a combination of an ancient backstrap loom and a warp weighted loom. The loom balances its weight between the existing wall structures in the HIAP studio using stones placed in plastic bags. The weaving systems are divided into two parts on the loom, allowing me to control the whole loom by myself.



Installation view at the HIAP studio, Suomenlinna, 2022

Warp-Weighted Loom

Warping repurposed yarns, sawing and sanding repurposed wood materials, drilling, nailing, creating heddle systems by knotting cotton yarns around wooden sticks, hanging the loom with help of stones, weaving with repurposed nylon ribbons

w 300 cm h 250 cm / 2022

Warp-Weighted Loom is a site-specific loom installation inspired by the Icelandic Viking loom, which used stones as weights attached directly to the warp threads. As a contemporary version, I built simple structures using leftover wood materials and used stones in the plastic bags as weights (instead of drilling holes directly into the stones).



Warp-Weighted Loom (weaving in progress) , HIAP Suomenlinna, 2022

B / L O O M - Exhibition

Making warp threads, sewing and sanding wooden pieces, assembling wooden pieces into heddles, threading warp threads into heddles, hanging loom structure with ribbons from wall structures

Gallery Lennätin, Harakka island / 2023

The solo exhibition B/LOOM presented an ongoing experimental process in which I tested my self-made wooden heddle systems on the backstrap looms. The wooden heddles are made according to the thickness and density of the warp yarns. Each heddle is made specifically for the designs of the textiles to be woven on the looms.





B/LOOM! exhibition (close-up view of the wooden heddles), Gallery Lennätin 2023