

Portfolio

Aoi Yoshizawa
aoiyoshizawa@gmail.com
www.aoyoshizawa.com

Not Big Enough

Hand-built heddles and loom (wood, wood glue, yarn and ribbon in various materials, plastic bags, stones)

W 370 x H 880 cm

Solo exhibition *Not Big Enough*, HAA Gallery, Helsinki / 2024





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

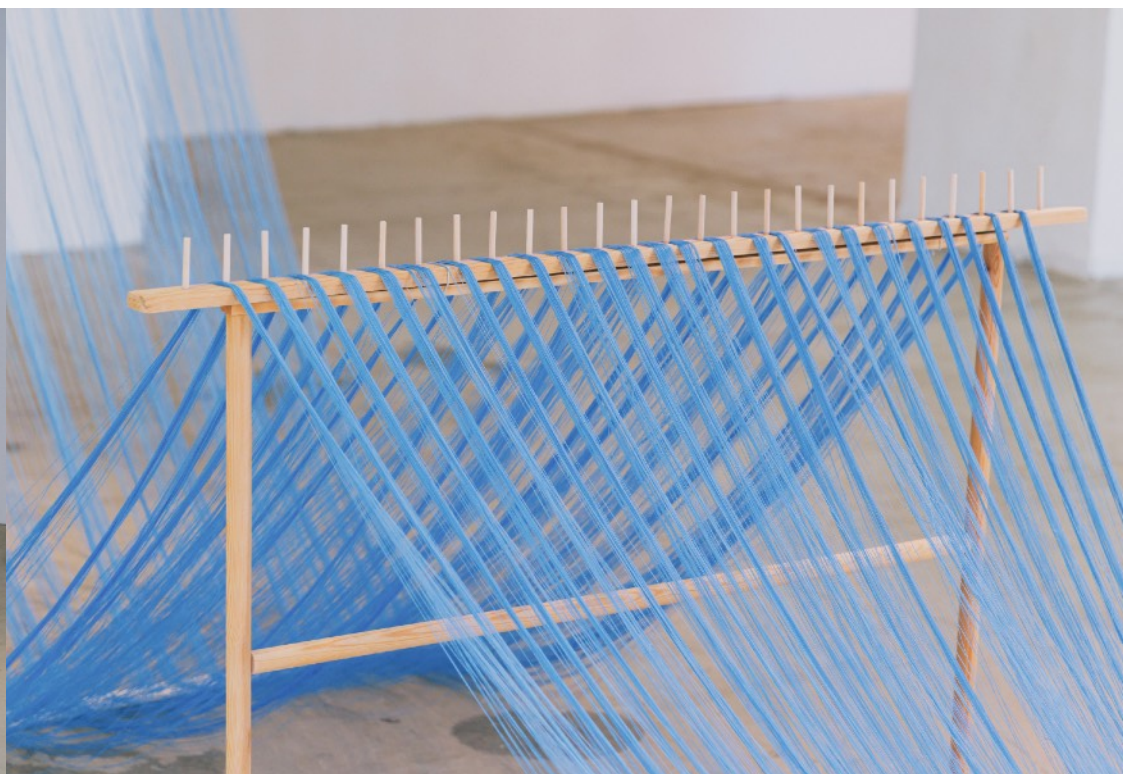
NOT BIG ENOUGH is a loom installation built from handmade wooden tools and repurposed yarns, suspended in space. This large-scale loom is developed throughout my artistic research project *I AM A WEAVER*, in which I explored traditional weaving methods and reinterpreted them with my technical curiosity. 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.

I AM A WEAVER - Solo exhibition

The exhibition presents a series of loom installations, sculptural works and a video work that explore the traditional practice of hand-weaving, reinterpreted through a contemporary lens. The exhibition brings together works from my current projects *I AM A WEAVER* and *Weaver's Landscapes*; focusing on the tools, processes, and physical experiences surrounding the act of weaving.

Yö Galleria, Helsinki / ongoing 31.1. - 15.2.2026





1000 Threads from Carroll St
W 120 x L 350 x H 165 cm
Hand-built sculptural artwork
(wood, screws, nylon threads, stone)
2025



Not Yet a Loom

Hand-built sculptural artwork
(wood, wood glue, cotton yarn, stones)

W 102 x L 400 x H 16 cm

2025

Heirloom

Hand-built heddles and loom (wood, wood glue, linen yarn, cotton yarn, custom-made bags, stones)

W 150 x H 340 cm

Group exhibition *Knit and Weave*, Schloss Hollenegg, Austria / 2025

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. 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.





Close-up view at the group exhibition *Knit and Weave*

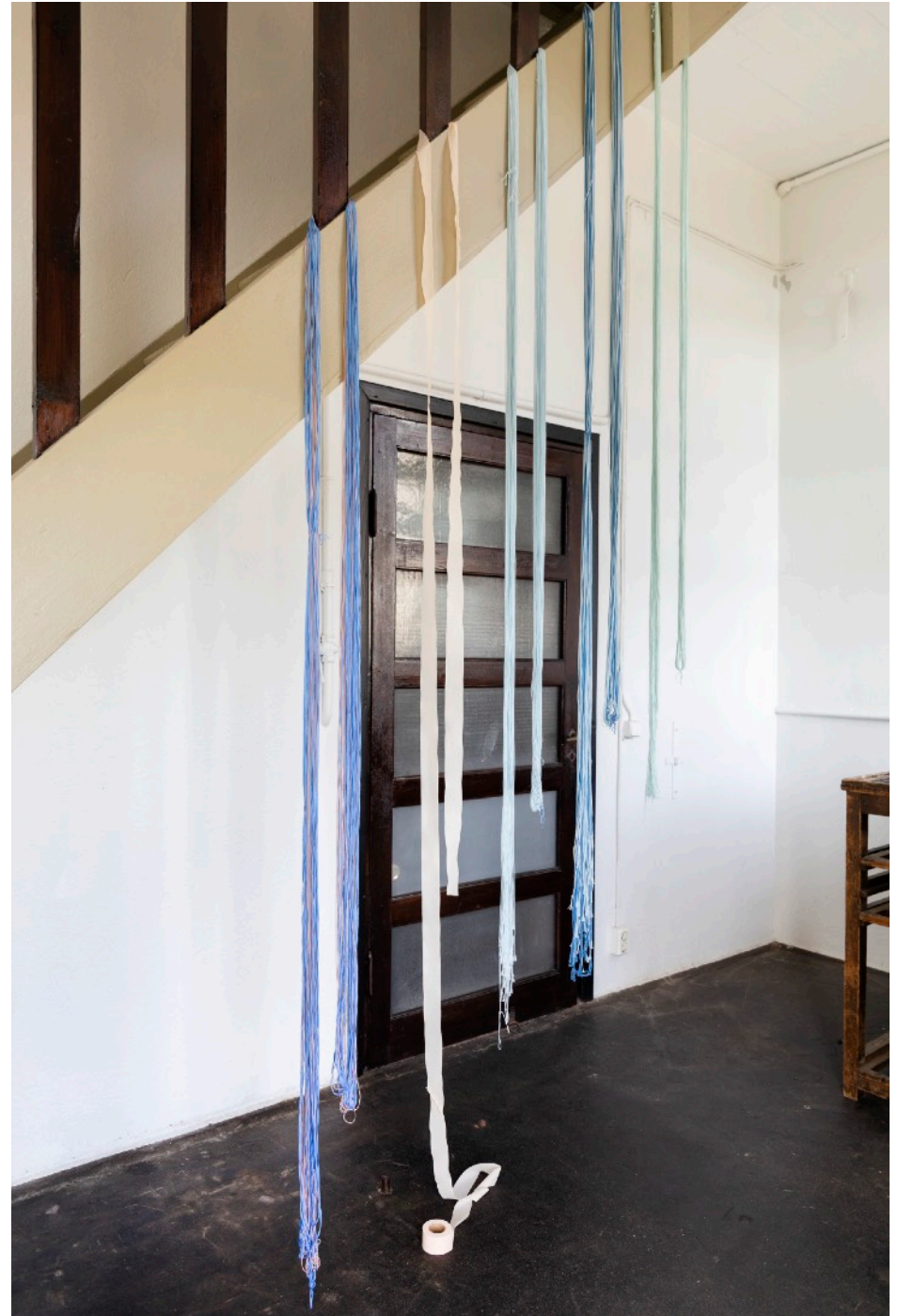
Look How It Moves

Site-specific installation (warp yarns, nylon ribbon)

W180 x H 350 cm

Group exhibition *Artists' Island*, Helsinki / 2025

Look How It Moves is an installation presented at the biannual group exhibition *Artists' Island* in Harakka Island. Warp threads and nylon ribbon were hung from a staircase located in front of the south entrance at the Harakka Artist house. The door of the entrance was kept open to allow the wind to enter the space. While the threads and ribbon moved gently in a light breeze, they responded dramatically to stormy winds. The colours of the installation, together with the light in the space, evoked the seascape of the island.





Close-up view at the exhibition *Artists' Island*

Diagonal Weighted Loom

Hand-built loom (wood, cotton yarn, repurposed fabric, gift ribbon, plastic bags, stones)

W 240 cm L 300 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

Hand-built loom (wood, nail, nylon yarn, nylon ribbon,, gift ribbon, tape, plastic bags, stones)

W 320 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 ! - Solo exhibition

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.



Installation view at the HIAP studio, Suomenlinna, 2022



Close-up view of the wooden heddles, Gallery Lennätin 2023