

# EDUCATOR GUIDE

*PASSAGE: DO HO SUH*

February 12 –September 11, 2016

## Artist Bio

- Born in Seoul, South Korea, 1962.
- His father is a notable abstract painter in Korea and his mother is very involved in preserving Korean heritage and culture.
- Education: Do Ho Suh earned an MFA in Oriental Painting from Seoul National University in Seoul, Korea. He then moved to Providence, RI to attend RISD and went on to receive an MFA in Sculpture at Yale University.
- Do Ho Suh's move to America caused a change in his way of thinking. Being away from home caused him to reexamine what exactly home meant to him and made him more aware of its value. This focus continues to influence his work.
- Currently lives in London with his family, but frequently travels to South Korea and New York.

## Key Words

- Home
- Migration, Displacement
- Memories
- Identity
- Rubbing

“It’s more accurate to say that I feel like I’m haunted by a space. It’s like a ghost following me around all the time.”

“I want to carry my house with me all the time like a snail.”

“I’m interested in transitional spaces [staircases, bridges, doorways] rather than destinations. They connect to different spaces, but at the same time they separate the spaces. I truly believe that life is a passageway.”



## Exhibition/Work

- The work at the CAC focuses on the many passageways in Do Ho's life, showcasing the stairwells, arches and doorways of past residences and allowing visitors to walk through the many transitions of Do Ho's life. These fabric installations have a ghost-like quality and make visitors feel like they are walking into a three dimensional blue print.
- The exhibition also includes smaller, individual fabric pieces including a radiator, toilet and light switch. They represent specimens or artifacts of the places he lived. Do Ho has taken items we see every day and separated them from their usual environment, allowing the viewer to see them in a new light.
- Do Ho Suh also creates room-sized rubbings of places from South Korean history as well as places he has lived.
- The exhibition includes drawings made from embedding thread into cotton paper.

## Materials

- Translucent polyester fabric and stainless steel tubing and wire
- Videos and photographs
- Thread embedded in cotton paper.
- Drawings/rubbings

## Activities

- Capturing a Moment
- How is a Home Different from a House?
- Community Quilts
- Remembering the Intangible

## Resources

- Artist Do Ho Suh Explores the Meaning of Home:  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702303376904579137672335638830>
- Video/Article:  
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/video-do-ho-suh-explains-his-ethereal-rubbings-97539>
- Art21 Do Ho Suh File:  
[http://www-tc.pbs.org/art21/files/uploads/pdf/art21\\_s2guide\\_suh.pdf](http://www-tc.pbs.org/art21/files/uploads/pdf/art21_s2guide_suh.pdf)
- Do Ho Suh Images:  
<http://www.lehmannmaupin.com/artists/do-ho-suh>
- Lesson Plan Idea:  
<http://www.shinebritezamorano.com/2011/09/do-ho-suh.html>
- Interview with Do Ho Suh:  
<http://www.designboom.com/interviews/designboom-interview-do-ho-suh-3/>

## Discussion/Before

- Introduce the artist Do Ho Suh and show examples of his work. Discuss how his move to America inspired his artwork.
- Ask the class what home means to them. Is it tied to a location or feeling? How do we preserve our personal memories of home or family?
- The exhibition focuses on the many passageways in Do Ho's life, including both doorways and stairwells, but also his personal journeys as he moves from one continent to another. Invite the class to examine the different forms of passage in their life, both everyday movements as well as larger changes.
- Ask students what possessions or memories they would take with them if they were to move to a new location. What makes them feel at home when traveling?

## Discussion/After

- Do Ho Suh has recreated parts of his past homes in the gallery and allows you (a stranger) to walk through it. How would you feel if your private home was open to the public?
- What did it feel like to walk through his pieces? Did his use of materials or color impact your experience?
- What did you think of the rubbing series? Why might an artist choose to make a rubbing instead of a traditional drawing or photograph? What about the process might add a personal touch?
- Do Ho selected works for the CAC as a response to Zaha Hadid's architecture. He wanted visitors to look at the building in a different way. Do you think he was successful? How does his artwork respond to the CAC's architecture?