

**LEE BUL**  
**Korean artist**

LEE BUL is a contemporary Korean sculptor and installation artist. She is one of the most prominent Asian female artists who emerged in the 1990s.

The artist

Lee Bul is born in 1964 in Yeongju. She obtained her BFA in sculpture at Hongik University, Seoul (1987).

Artwork

Protesting against the artistic conventions of her country, Lee Bul first organized highly body-centered performances, including costume-objects, organic growths made of fabric. Lee Bul made a name for herself with her famous Cyborg series (1997-2011). Cyborg is a creature in a 'post-gendered world'. After her Series Cyborgs and Anagrams, she started to perform, making complex landscapes, sorts of models, reproduction of utopian architectures. She claims the legacy of the German urban architect Bruno Taut who used the transparency of glass and steel. Lee Bul explained in a 2008 interview: "My work has always been the expression of a desire to transcend boundaries. The transition has therefore been to move from the body to the broader idea of social structures". Moving to an externalization of her practice, while retaining an element of performance but with the absence of her own body, Lee Bul has continued to question the concepts of beauty, her transition in time and the social role of women through the introduction of decorative elements, rot and smell."

Lee Bul takes her inspiration from film, literature and architecture, the history of ideas in Europe and the history of her own country.

Invited by Dior to appear in the exhibition "Esprit Dior" at the Grand Palais, her interpretation of the "Lady Dior" was particularly complex. Created in an industrial style, her bag included dozens of tiny Plexiglas mirrors, tilted in all directions so that the bag itself seemed to be a giant broken mirror.

At Mudam, in June 2014, the visitor was invited to walk on uneven ground with above head a set of white sculptures, half-human creatures, half-machines of a post-apocalyptic era.

Lee Bul, represented by Thaddeus Ropac Gallery, exhibited at the Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2016 (16-19 November 2016) a suspended sculpture entitled State of Reflection resembling a frozen landscape composed of floating mountains with winding roads on a earth rooted in stalactite-like shapes. The sculpture was inspired by the futuristic architect Bruno Taut, her fantastic visions of "Alpine architecture" just before the end of the Second World War.

Lee Bul, represented by Thaddeus Ropac Gallery, exhibited at Art Basel Hong Kong on March 23-25, 2017, a civitas Solis III8 (2015) mural inspired by the utopian city imagined in the City of the Sun, a text by the Italian Renaissance philosopher Campanella Tommaso. She presented "Crashing" in London from June 1 to August 19, 2018, at the Hayward Gallery, which she had

transformed into a spectacular dream landscape that brought out monstrous bodies, futuristic cyborgs, shimmering environments and a monumental and surreal Zeppelin. About 180,000 crystals had also been integrated into a military-style net that enveloped the gallery building. This retrospective exhibition was also presented at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin from 28 September 2018 to 13 January 2019.