

FREEFLOW: Embodied Congestion

Artistic Research Proposal

submitted by
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2026

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FREEFLOW_Embodied Congestion

Embodies Congestion is a spatial installation that allows visitors to physically experience the failure of circulation within contemporary social systems through bodily pressure and restriction.

The installation is structured as a gradually narrowing passageway. Visitors move through a sequence of familiar objects associated with modern mobility, labor, rest, and consumption, such as a bed, an office chair, fragments of a car, and a shopping cart. These objects remain functional and recognizable, reflecting the comfort and stability provided by contemporary systems.

However, as visitors move deeper into the passage, the space becomes increasingly compressed. Soft sculptural masses and accumulations produced through mass consumption and unequal concentration gradually begin to occupy the corridor. These invading structures resemble fat deposits or blood clots accumulating inside blood vessels, functioning like obstructions that interrupt circulation within the body as a larger living system. Covered in soft tufted surfaces, these accumulations slowly interfere with the visitors' movement. Visitors must step over, push through, and twist their bodies in order to navigate the increasingly constricted space.

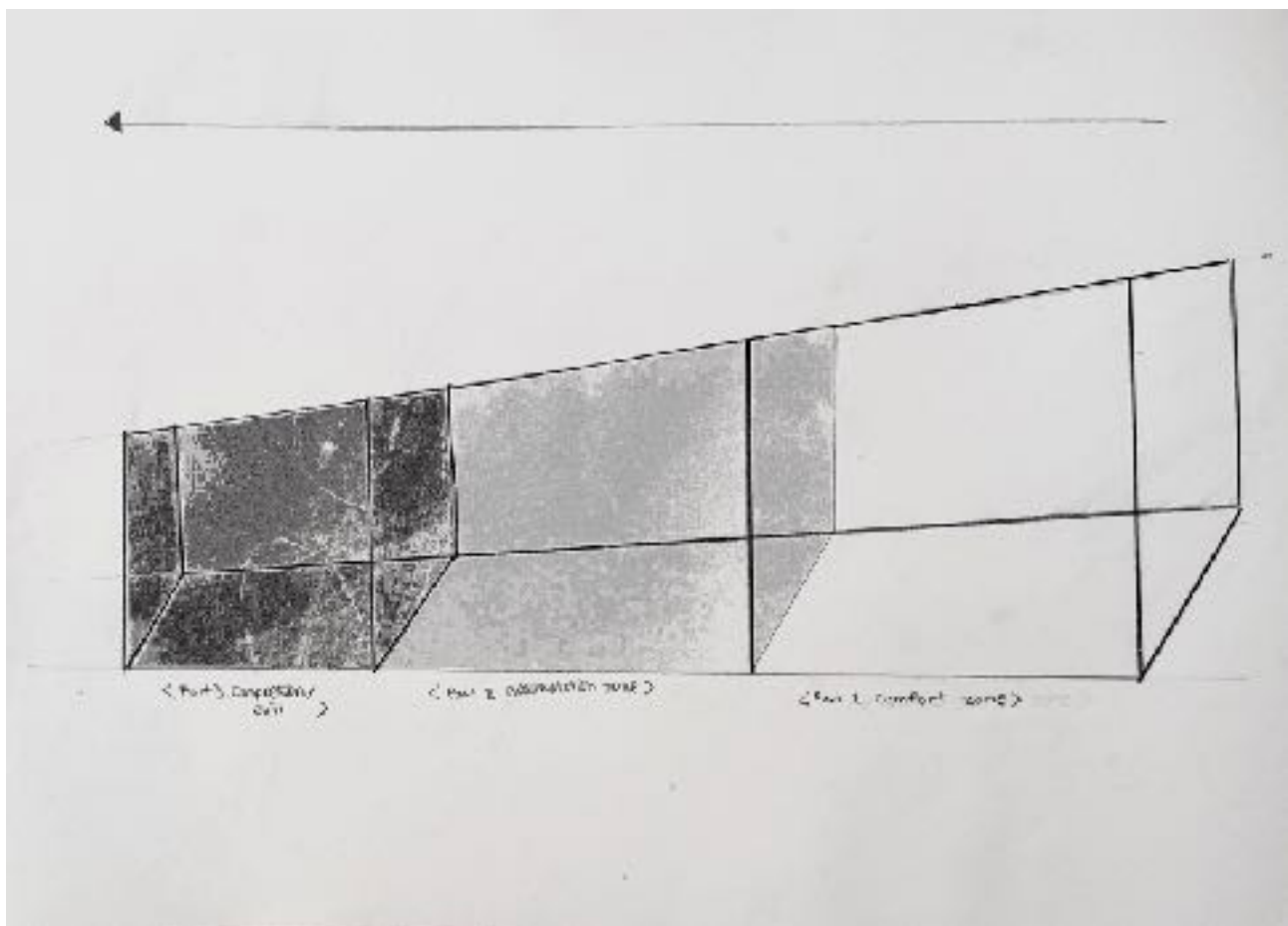
Rather than directly representing or criticizing capitalism, the work translates unhealthy systems of circulation and accumulation into bodily experience. What initially appears as a comfortable and stable environment gradually transforms into a structure of pressure and friction, making visitors increasingly aware of their own bodies and movement.

In this work, tufting functions not simply as surface decoration, but as a material that constructs the space itself. The soft textile structures simultaneously create comfort and pressure, revealing how systems designed around efficiency and convenience can ultimately lead to bodily exhaustion, blockage, and restriction.

SPATIAL SEQUENCE (PLAN)

Floor plan / diagram

- Entry: wide / comfort zone
- Middle: accumulation zone
- Exit: compression zone



- circulation
- flow
- accumulation
- congestion
- compression

PART 1 — COMFORT ZONE

Functional comfort

The initial section presents functional objects associated with mobility, rest, work, and consumption.

Visuals :

- A spacious, open volume
- school desk, chair and board, car, bed etc.
- fragment tufted bumps



PART 2— ACCUMULATION ZONE

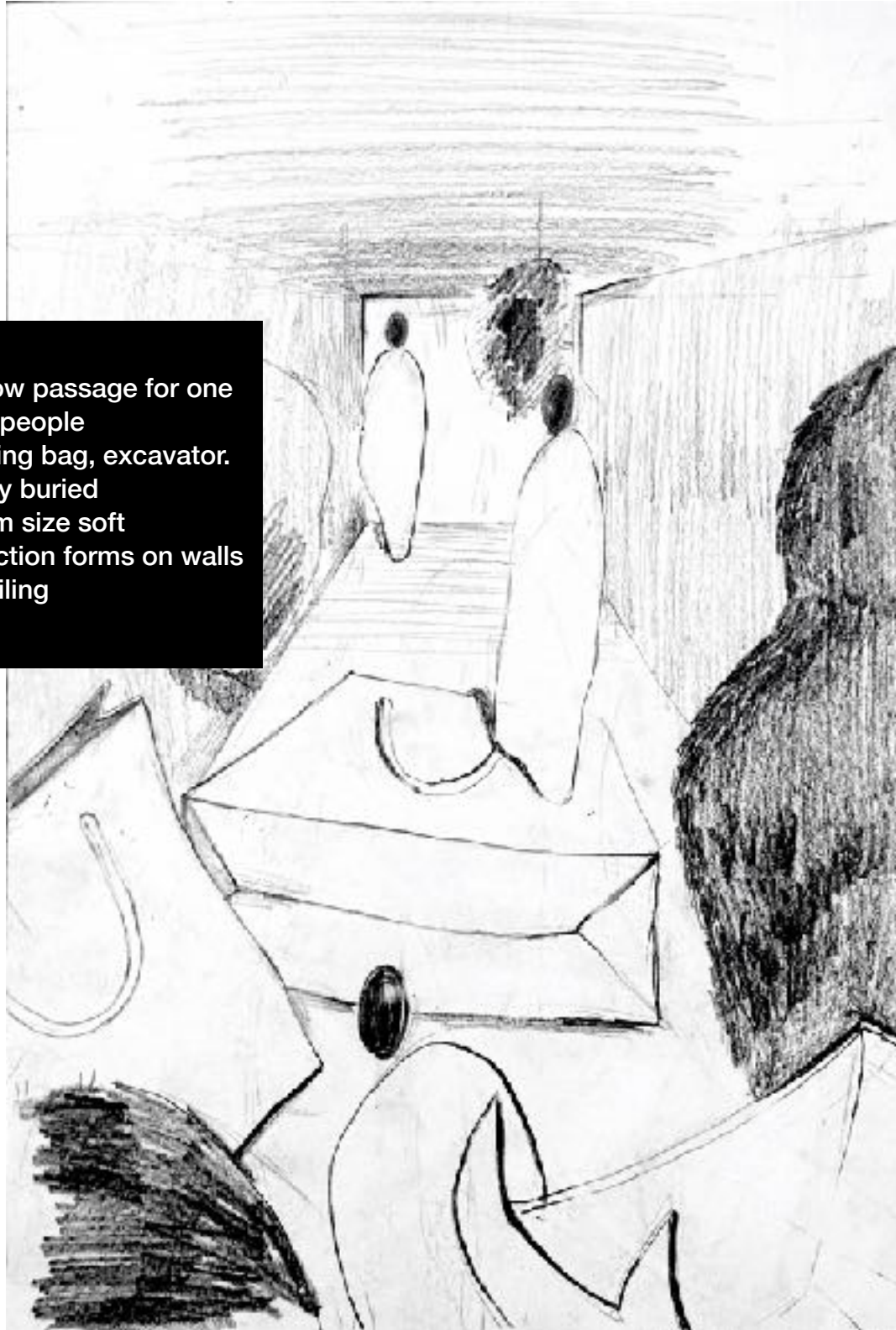
Clustering flow

Accumulation begins to interrupt circulation.

Soft structures expand into the passage, producing friction between body and space.

visual:

- A narrow passage for one to two people
- Shopping bag, excavator.
- partially buried
- medium size soft obstruction forms on walls and ceiling



PART3 — COMPRESSION / EXIT

Bodily experience of compression and friction of money

The final section compresses movement into a narrow bodily negotiation. The space becomes an interior-like condition where circulation is heavily restricted.

A spatial model that rethinks monetary circulation as a bodily system of flow, accumulation, and blockage, offering a sensory framework that can inspire alternative understandings of value exchange.



- Compressed spacial volume both vertically and horizontally, reducing bodily freedom of movement
- Soft tufted structures densely occupy the corridor, creating tactile resistance and partial obstruction of the path
- Their swollen appearance references bodily accumulation, including fat deposits, plaque, or blood clots within vessels

MATERIAL / TEXTURE

The work uses tufted textile as both image and structure, creating a tactile field that shifts between softness and pressure.



- *density variation tests*



Materials

- tufted textile
- cotton filling
- foam
- dried beans
- wood support structure
- fabric and soft sculpture elements

Spatial Structure

- walkable textile installation
- gradually narrowing passage
- variable dimensions
- modular soft obstacles

Color

- pink to deep red textile surfaces

- Constructed from tufted textile surfaces with an approximate pile height of 10 cm
- Covered entirely in shades of red
- Filled with soft internal materials such as cotton stuffing, foam, or dried beans to create varying densities and tactile resistance
- The forms remain physically soft and compressible despite functioning as spatial

Biography

Jiyoong Park is an artist based in Düsseldorf, Germany. Her practice explores bodily perception, rest, circulation, and relationship between the human body, nature through textile, painting, and sculptural installation. Using tufting and soft sculptural forms, she creates immersive environments that investigate the relationship between comfort, accumulation, and embodied experience.

Her works often emerge from intimate and familiar spaces such as bedrooms, resting spaces, and imagined landscapes, where softness and material presence become ways of examining the relationship between humans and their surroundings.

She is currently studying in Düsseldorf Kunstakademie.