

LAURENT MARTIN “LO”

CELESTIAL EQUILIBRIUM



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THE FRAGILE MOMENT OF HAPPINESS

BY KATIE DE TILLY

The studio of Laurent Martin “Lo” sits along the Costa Brava coastal region of Catalonia in north-eastern Spain. A dry wild terrain welcomes you as you arrive to the magical place of swaying bamboo of diverse forms. Lo sits among his creations like a wizard of mastery, his legs crossed and leaning back in his chair and a smile brimming with great joy as he talks with one hand waving as if with a wand of wondrous animation. Lo exudes a joy of being. He is like his works, in balance and in a flowing world of calm. In the corner sits a bundle of bamboo sticks in a ceramic pot awaiting being chosen to be taken to the workman’s table. The red brick walls are surrounded by white hanging canvas that allow you to see better the undulating forms that move ever so slightly in the gentle breeze passing its way through. In the house where he lives, the garden welcomes you with several works hanging in plein air, happily living in the dry climate. Another studio is in his home, ceilinged with a rack of larger pieces of bamboo and the walls framed with circular bundles of already shaped strips.



Lo was born in France and became an artist later in his life. He trained in visual arts in Paris and then went on to work as a creative director in advertising and fashion. He says that although his first encounter with bamboo was circumstantial, it changed his life with that “coup de foudre¹” feeling. His passion was redirected with a solitary objective and his soul purpose. His excitement led him on his travels towards learning deeply about the material and the masters working with it worldwide along the bamboo belt, which connects peoples along the tropics from the Americas to Asia.

Through the over 20 years that Lo has been working on his creative process, he has fine-tuned his style to find that perfect mix of balance and harmony, tension and flow. The title of his current exhibition is Celestial Equilibrium and is indeed a celestial dance of his ever-evolving cosmic symphony. His artistic journey orbits around a profound connection with bamboo, fusing his palette with the ethereal essence of this divine plant. Within the realm of bamboo’s physical and sensorial virtues, Lo discovers a profound source of inspiration—an intricate organic structure that exudes sophistication, pulsating with cosmic energy and spiritual resonance. Lo becomes a conduit unfurling the tapestry of his mobile sculptures into a universe of odyssey, wonder and awe.

Within the expanse of each mobile sculpture, a harmonious interplay of complexity and simplicity unfolds, revealing the quintessence of Lo’s artistic vision. It is within this delicate balance that the true essence of his work resides, beckoning viewers on a quest to unearth its elusive beauty. Every twist, every curve, and every delicate balance holds a secret, inviting contemplation and exploration. Like whispers, these moments of simplicity evoke a sense of profound tranquility.

“Lo” comments so poignantly, *“In my search for balance, the Universe is my main source of inspiration. The combination of forces of attraction and repulsion, tension and restraint, gravity and weightlessness, presents the most spectacular demonstration. The sublime moment of the alignment of the planets, a masterpiece within the exhibition, symbolizes the concordance of favourable events in our lives. The fragile moment of happiness.”* Lo’s works, indeed, allow for that precious uplifting, magical feeling within great art.

1 a sudden unforeseen event, in particular an instance of love at first sight.

從脆弱中誕生的幸福

－ 戴天利

藝術家Laurent Martin “Lo” 的工作室坐落在西班牙東北部加泰羅尼亞地區的科斯塔布拉瓦沿海地區。他的工作室是一个神奇的地方：一片乾燥而野性的土地在我們面前展開，搖曳多姿的竹子使人陶醉其中。“Lo” 坐在他的竹雕塑中，像一個技藝高超的魔術師。他盤腿坐着，身體後仰在椅子上，臉上洋溢著巨大的喜悅，一只手在空中揮舞著，就像舞動著一根看不見的魔杖。“Lo” 散發著一種平靜且活力的氣質，就像他的作品一樣，呼吸在一個寧靜流動的世界中。他的工作室角落裏有一捆竹子，放在一個陶制的花盆里，隨時等待著被他選中並帶到工作台上開始創作。紅磚牆被白色的帆布環繞著，讓人更清楚看到在微風中搖擺的竹雕的起伏變化。在他居住的房子中，有幾件懸掛在花園的作品迎接我們，在乾燥的風中舞動。他的家裏還有另一個工作室，天花板上掛滿了較大的竹雕，牆壁上則掛滿了已經成型的環形竹條。

“Lo” 在法國出生，在他成為一名藝術家之前，他在巴黎學習視覺藝術，並投入廣告和時尚領域擔任創意總監。他說，儘管他與竹子的第一次相遇是偶然的，但它以一種「閃電般的愛情」的狀態進入並改變了他的生活。他的激情被重新引導，他專注於一個篤定的目標和刻在靈魂深處的使命。他的好奇與信仰驅使他去旅行，深入了解竹這種材料的特質並與世界各地的製竹的大師們共事，他的足跡橫跨美洲到亞洲等熱帶地區的種竹產地。

在過去的20多年里，“Lo” 一直投入在不間斷的創作中。他不斷提升自己的風格，尋找獨特的平衡，達到靜與動的完美融合。他最新展覽《Celestial Equilibrium》中的竹雕作品彷彿運動中的宇宙星系。他將竹子的空靈與銀河系的奇妙相互結合，在竹的複雜有機結構中，拓展我們對宇宙的想像和對未知的探索。“Lo” 的作品成為一座橋樑，我們在他的移動式竹雕塑中尋找歷史與文明的註腳，去感受藝術家漫長而勤勉的創作之路。

“Lo” 藝術視野的精髓，正是在作品微妙的平衡中，引導觀者展開探索，沉浸在其光影之間投射出的美。每一道弧線、每一次旋轉、每一次微妙的平衡都彷彿在與觀者對話，如同低語般，這些瞬間喚醒人心中一種深邃寧靜的感覺。

“Lo” 談到:「在我尋求平衡的過程中，宇宙是我的主要靈感來源。 吸引和排斥、張力和約束、重力和失重的結合是作品最獨特的展示。我的作品蘊含著微妙的平衡和能量。我希望作品能給觀眾帶來片刻的幸福。」“Lo” 的確將竹雕塑提升為獨特且優美的當代藝術形式。我們可以通過作品去感受他的激情。



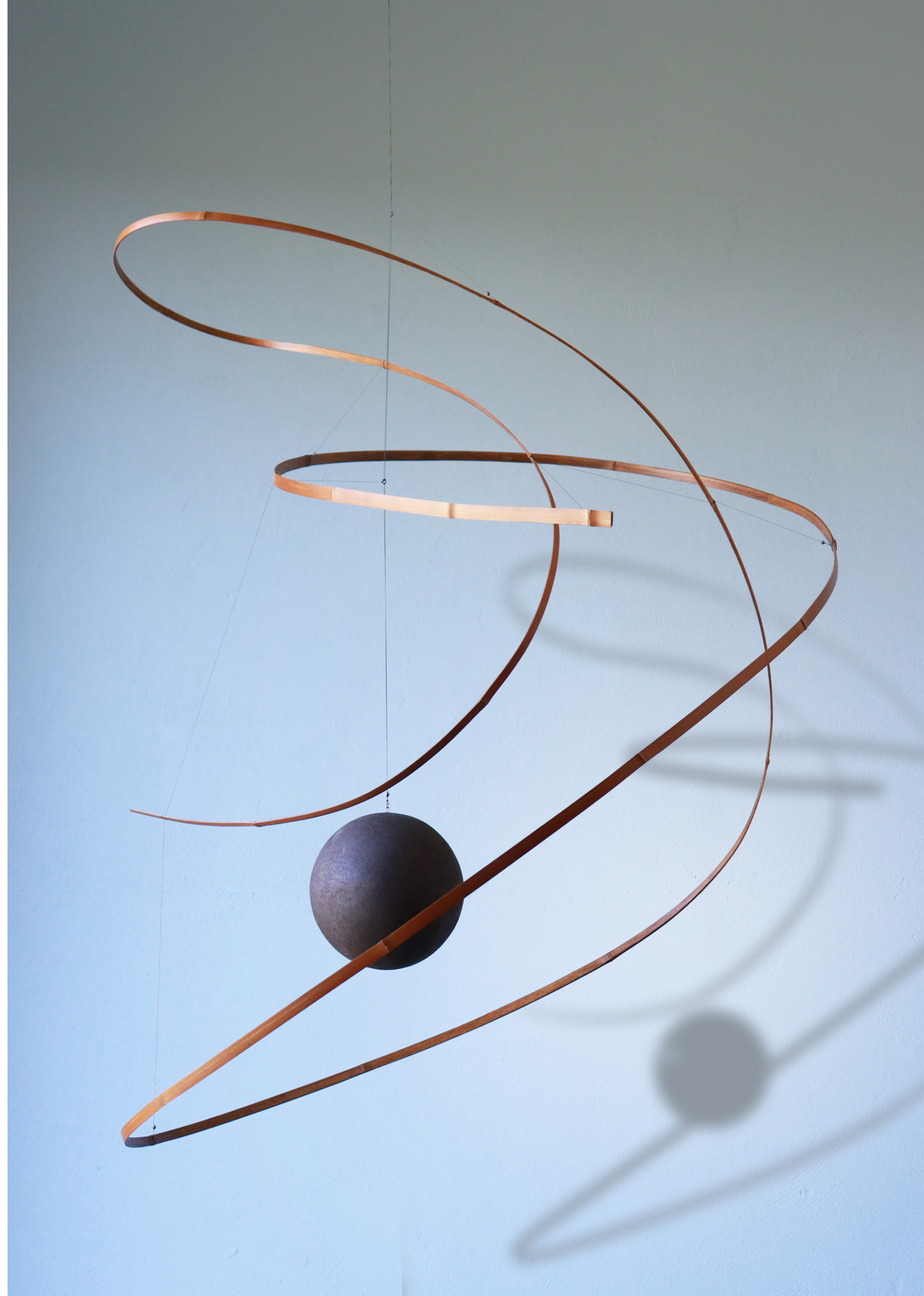
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Revolution, 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic ball

Height: 135 cm

Rotation diameter: 140 cm



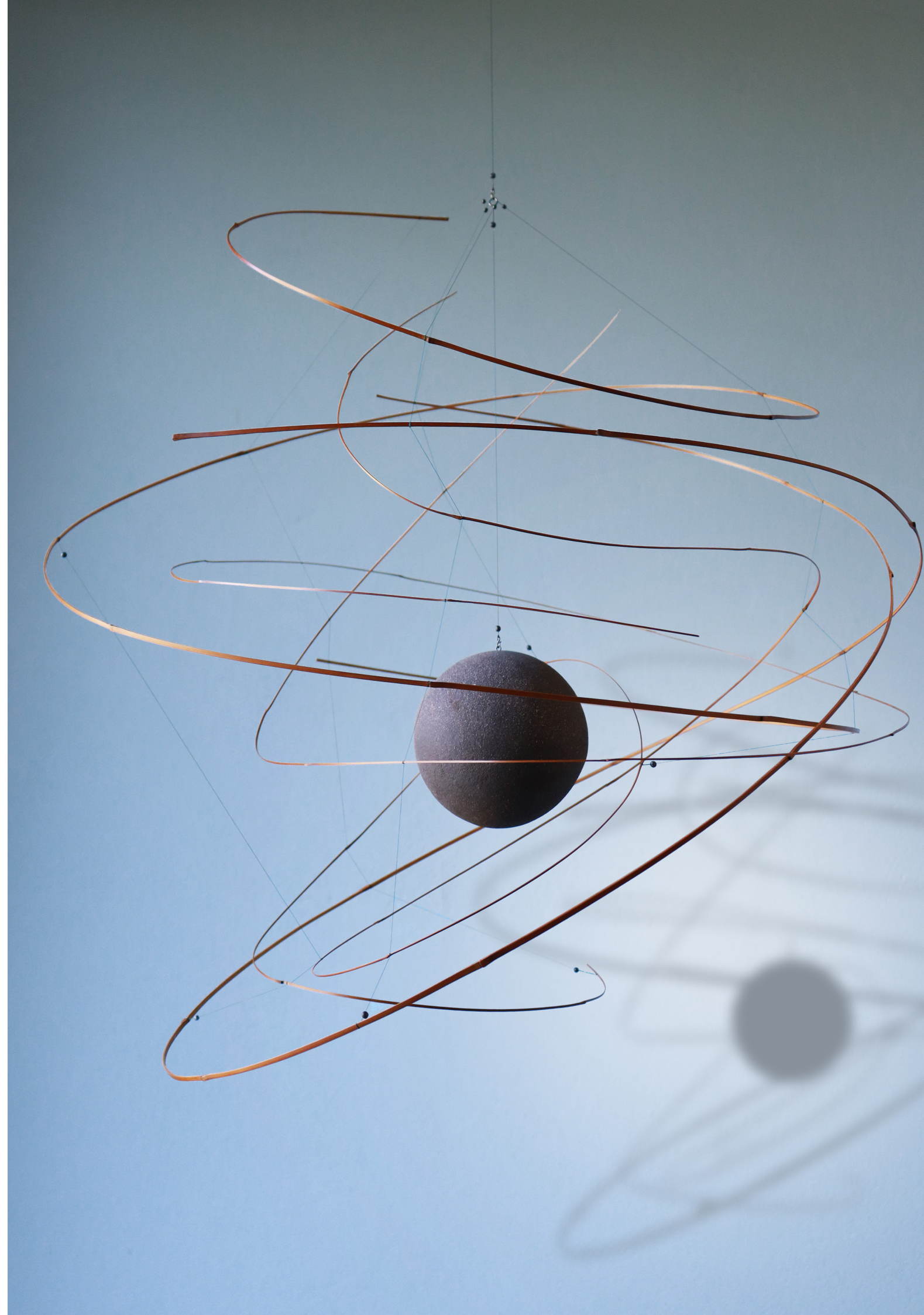
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Exoplanète (Exoplanet), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic ball

Height: 60 cm

Rotation diameter: 70 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Galactic Birth, 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic ball

Height: 145 cm

Rotation diameter: 80 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Cyclope, 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, steel & lead balls, steel base

Height: 210 cm

Rotation diameter: 80 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

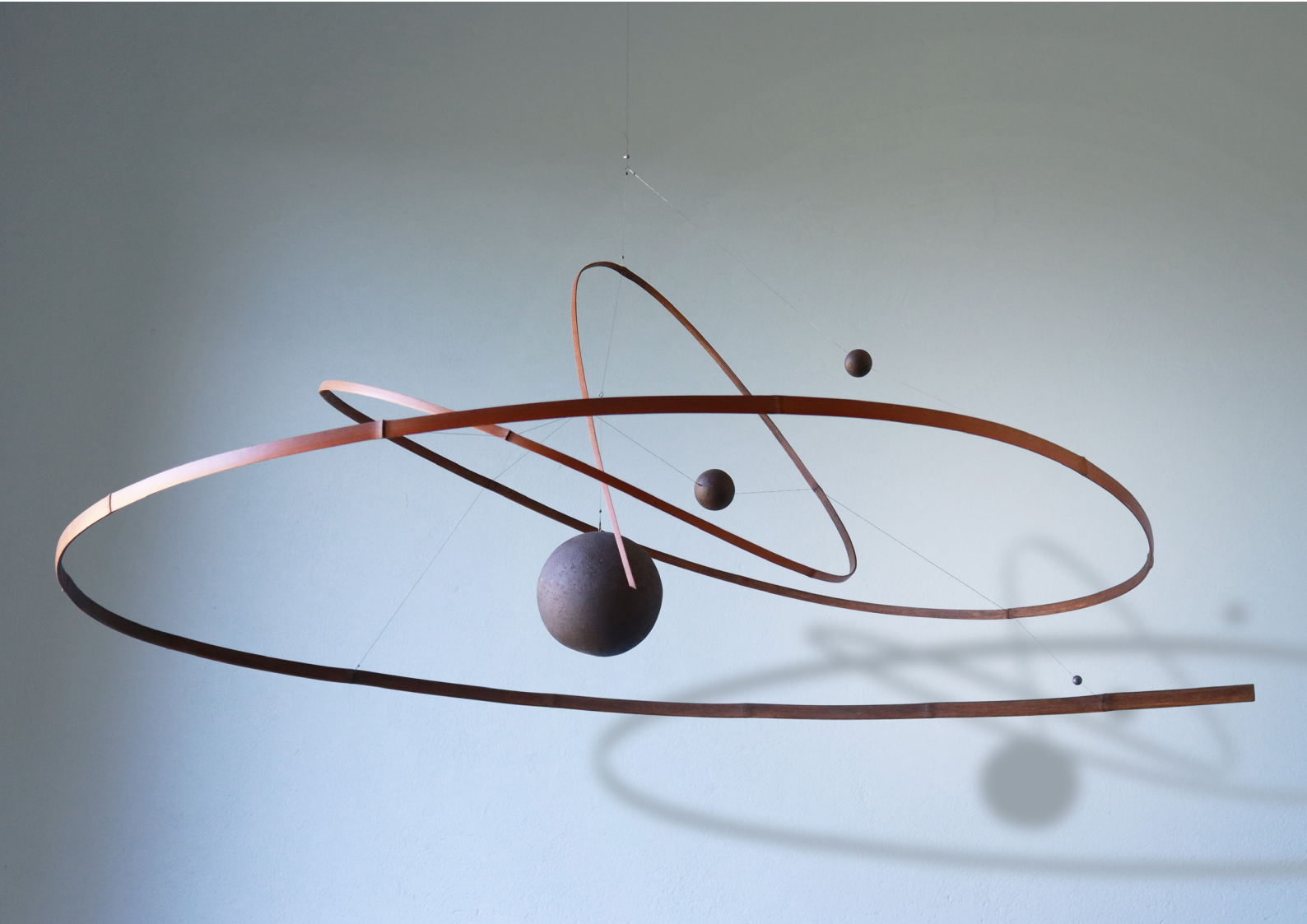
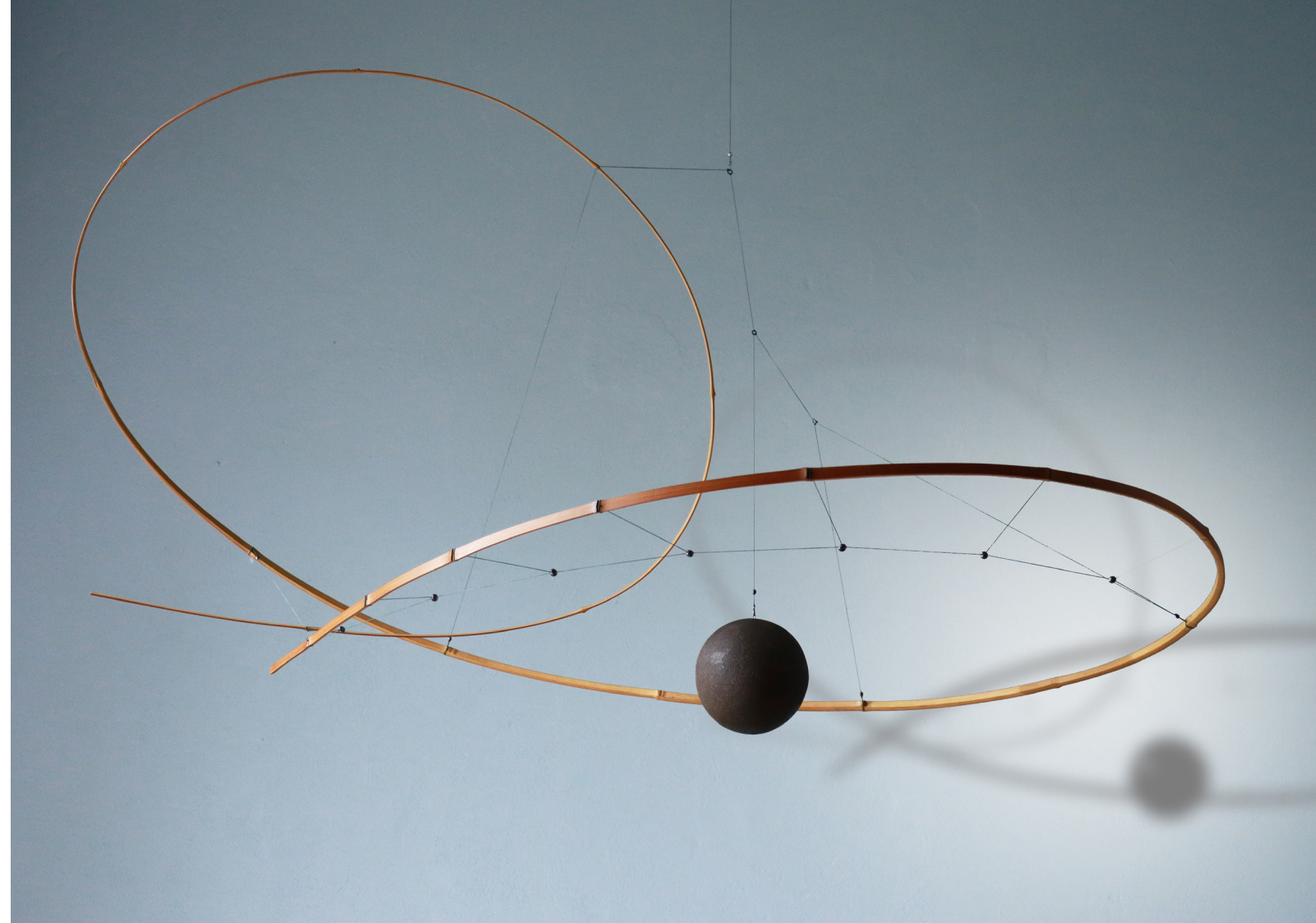
Alignement des planètes (Alignment of the Planets), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic balls

Height: 80 cm

Rotation diameter: 210 cm

Ceramic balls: 13, 6, 3.5 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

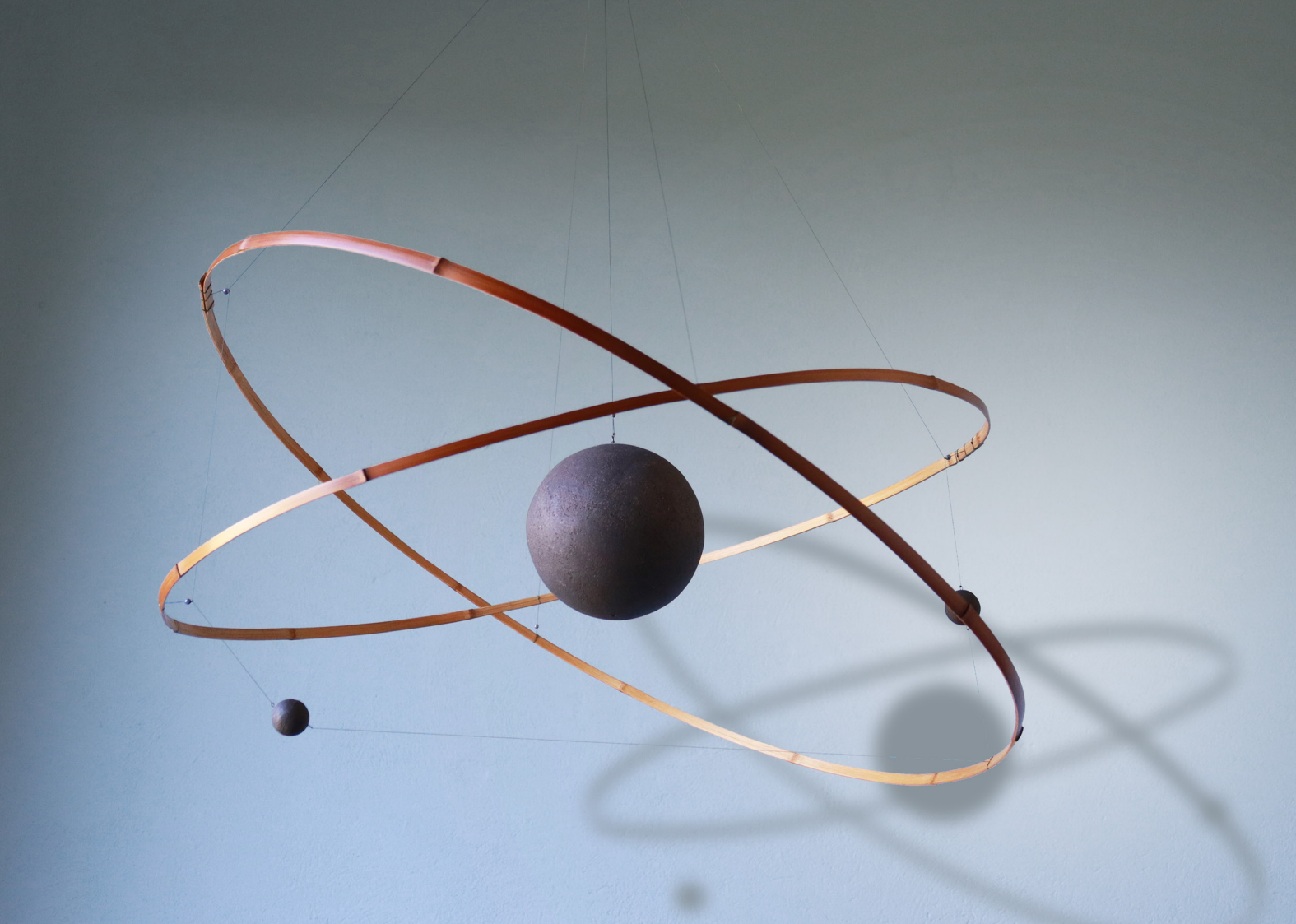
Fractale Évolution (Fractal Evolution), 2023

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, polyamide thread, ceramic ball

Height: 90 cm

Rotation diameter: 180 cm





Laurent Martin “Lo”

Voute Céleste (Heavenly Vault), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic balls

Height: 45 cm

Rotation diameter: 180 cm

Ceramic ball: 11 cm

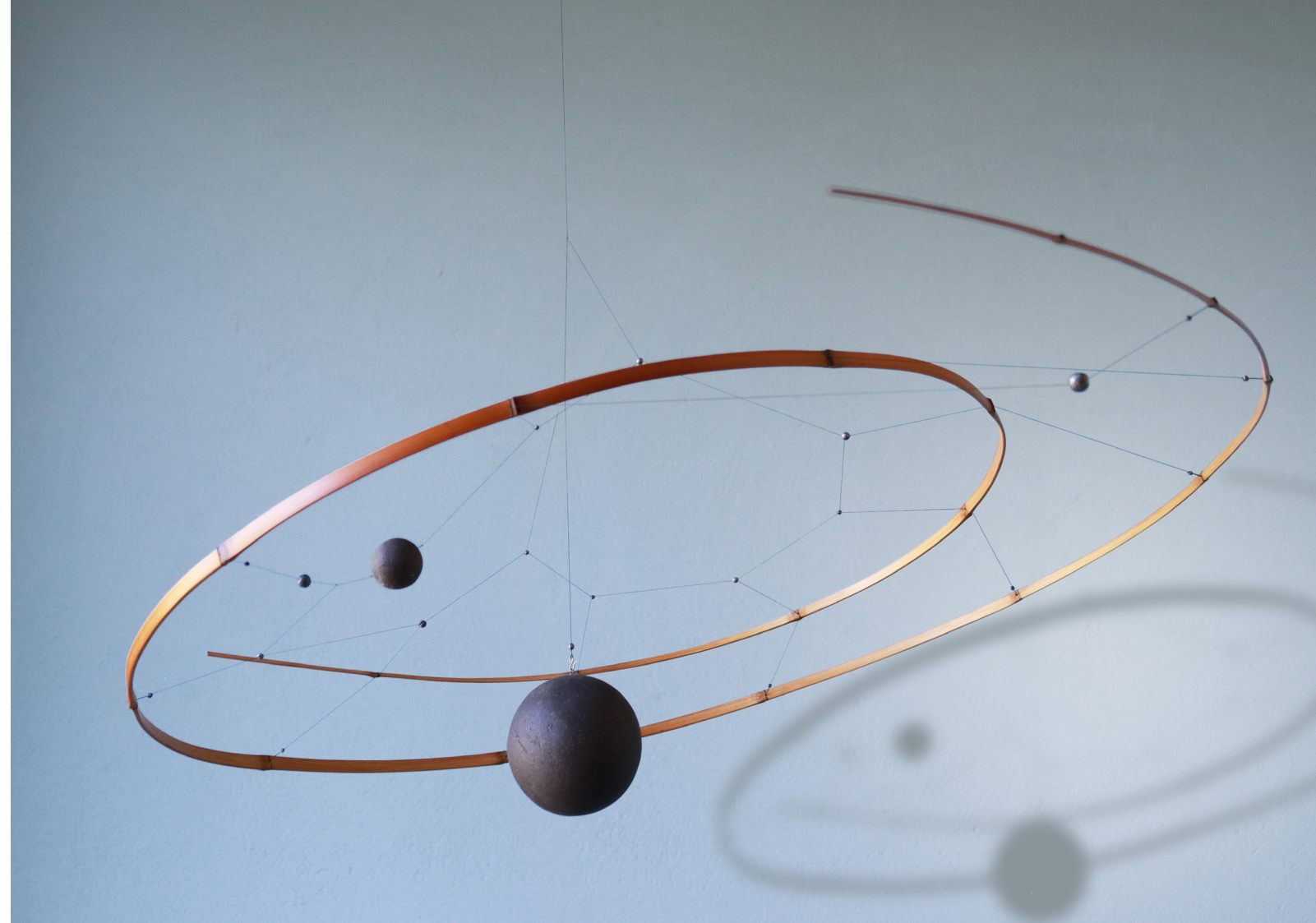
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Orbites (Orbits), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, ceramic balls

Height: 100 cm

Rotation diameter: 90 cm



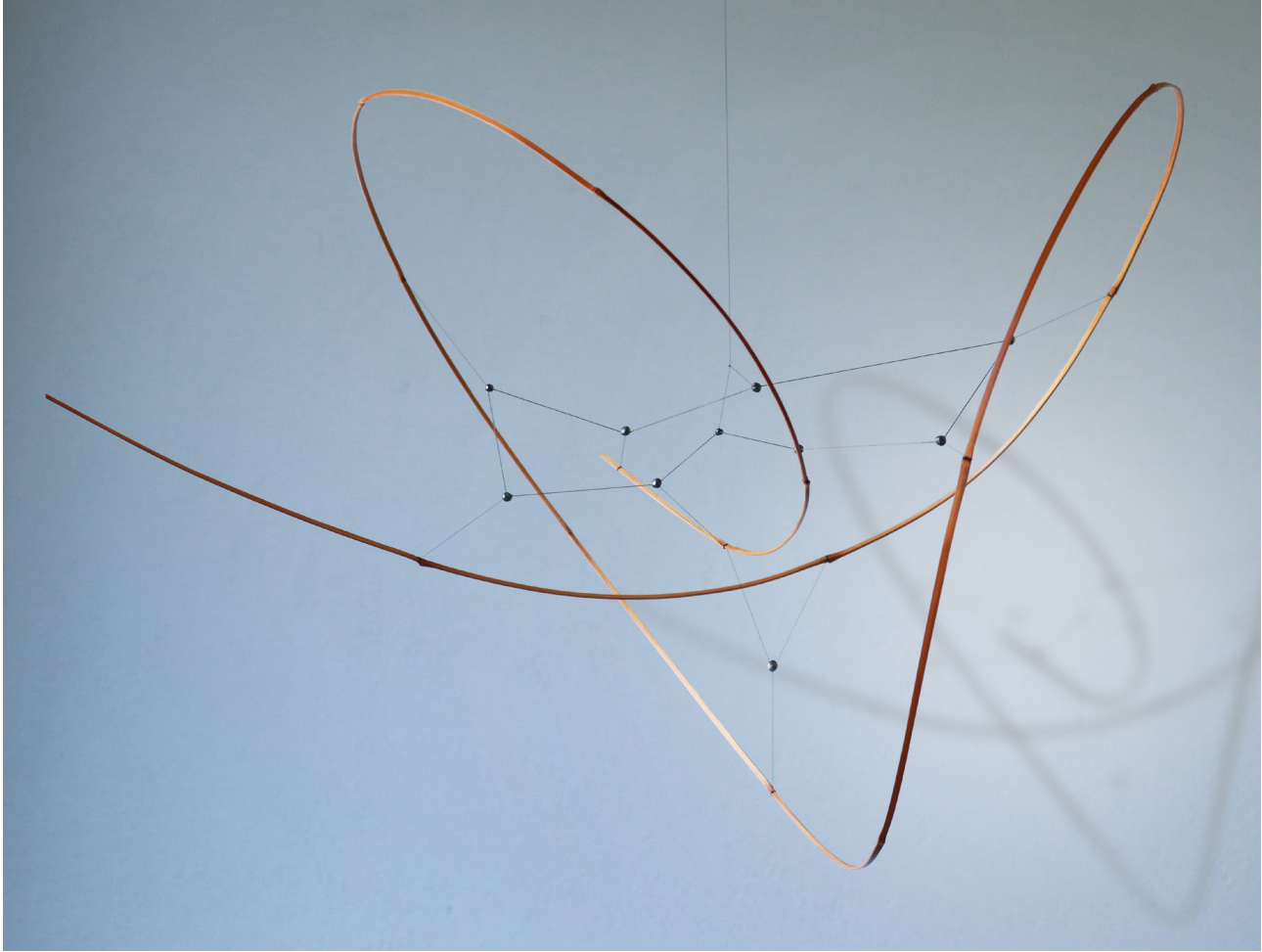
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Pléiades (Pleiades), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, lead balls

Height: 40 cm

Rotation diameter: 80 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Génese (Genesis), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, steel & lead balls, olive wood base

Height: 33 cm

Rotation diameter: 60 cm



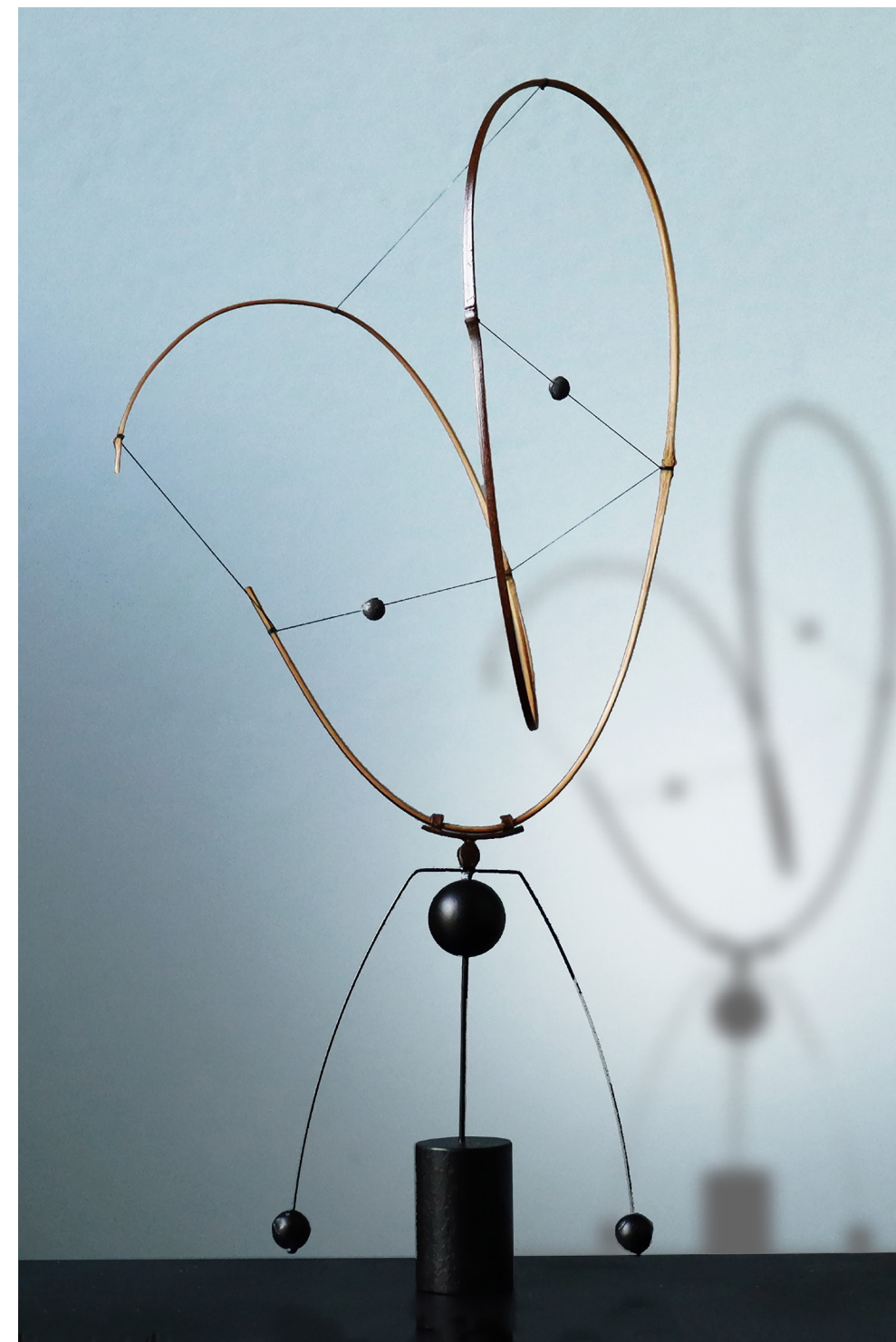
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Grand Synodique (Grand Synodic), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, steel & lead balls, steel base

Height: 56 cm

Rotation diameter: 60 cm



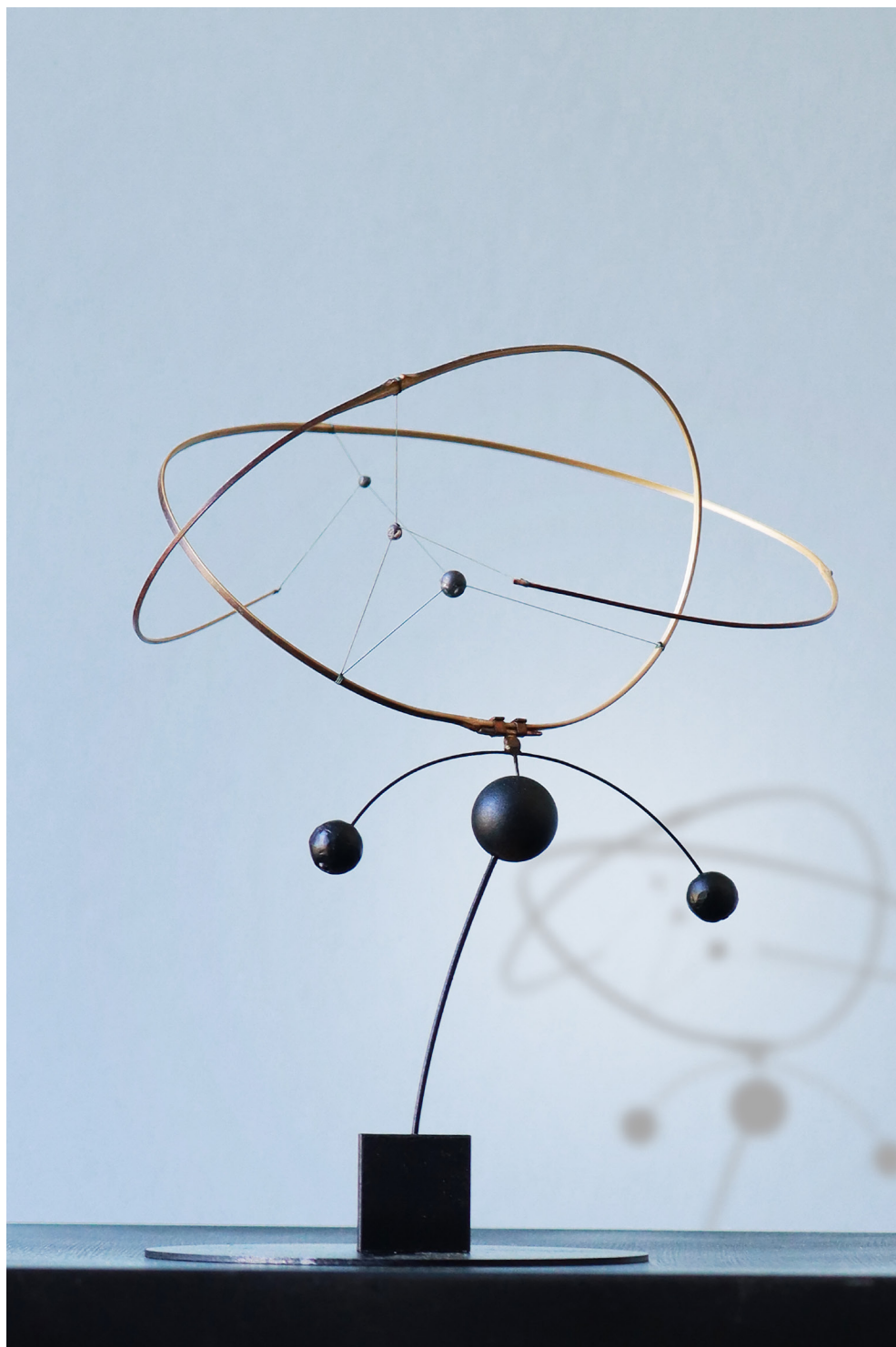
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Masque (Mask), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, steel & lead balls, steel base

Height: 32 cm

Rotation diameter: 14 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Petit Synodique (Small Synodic), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, steel & leads, steel base

Height: 20 cm

Rotation diameter: 24 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Zodiaque (Zodiac), 2024

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, copper gilded balls, glass dome

Height: 19 cm

Rotation diameter: 11 cm

Laurent Martin “Lo”

Great Loop, 2021

Taiwan smoked bamboo, fishing net thread, ceramic ball

Height: 215 cm

Rotation diameter: 120 cm



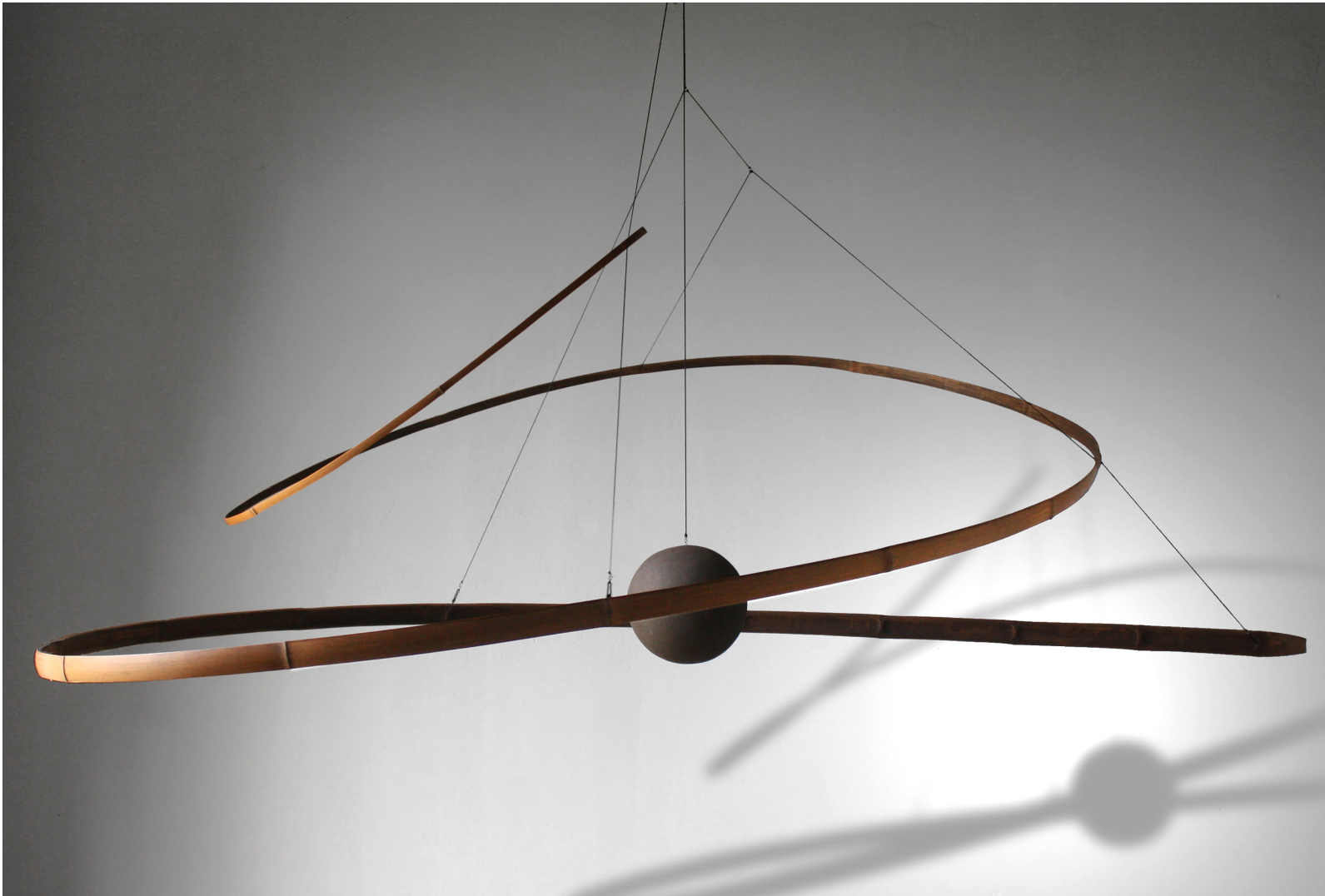
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Dark Genesis, 2020

Bamboo, nylon threads, steel hooks, rings and ceramic ball

150 x 260 x 155 cm

Rotation diameter: 290 cm



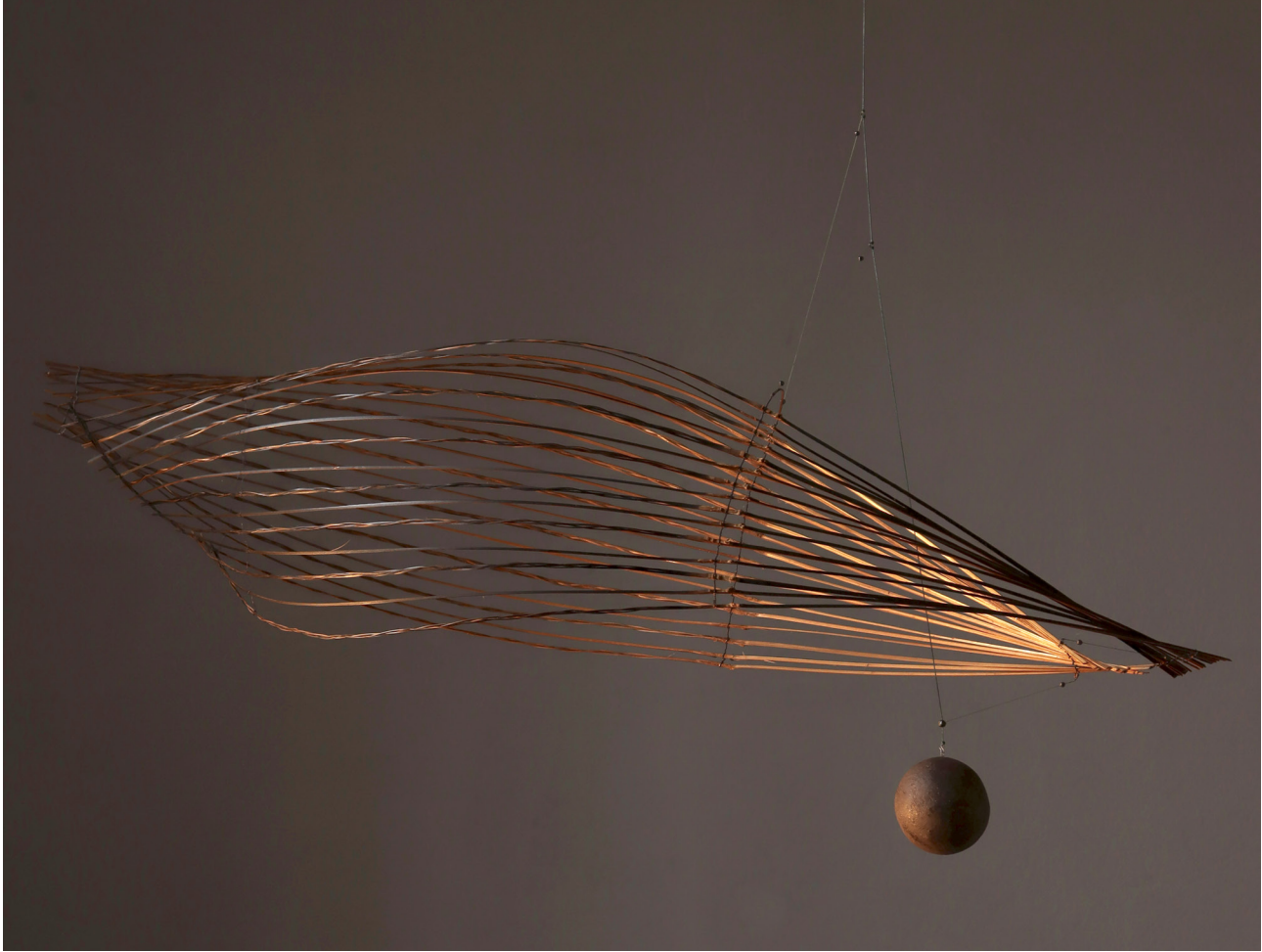
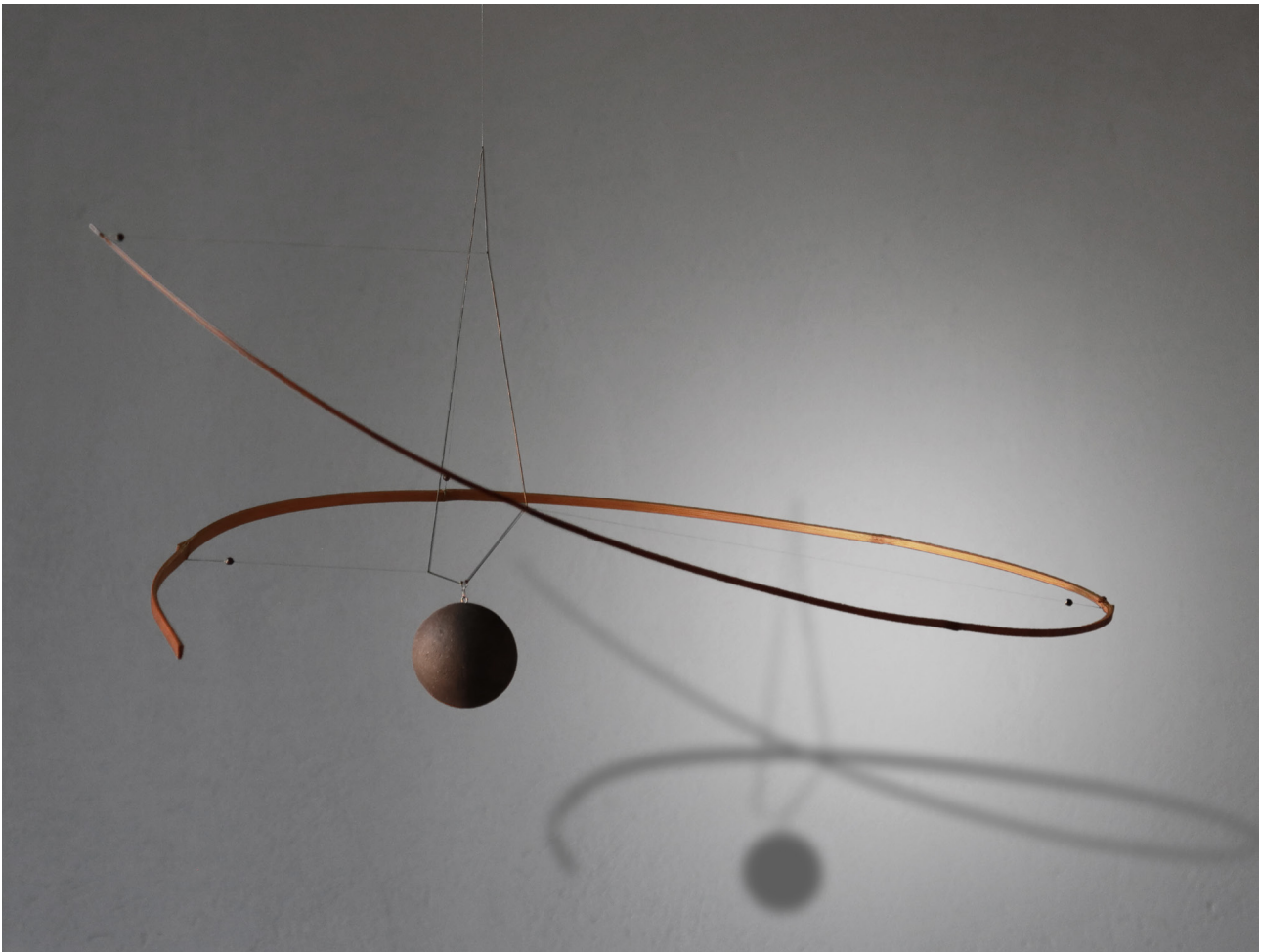
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Tobu, 2021

Indonesian Black Bamboo, fireline braid thread, fishing sinkers, ceramic ball

Height: 45 cm

Rotation diameter: 106 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Loop, 2022

Taiwan smoked bamboo, titan braid thread, ceramic ball

Height: 40 cm

Rotation diameter: 80 cm

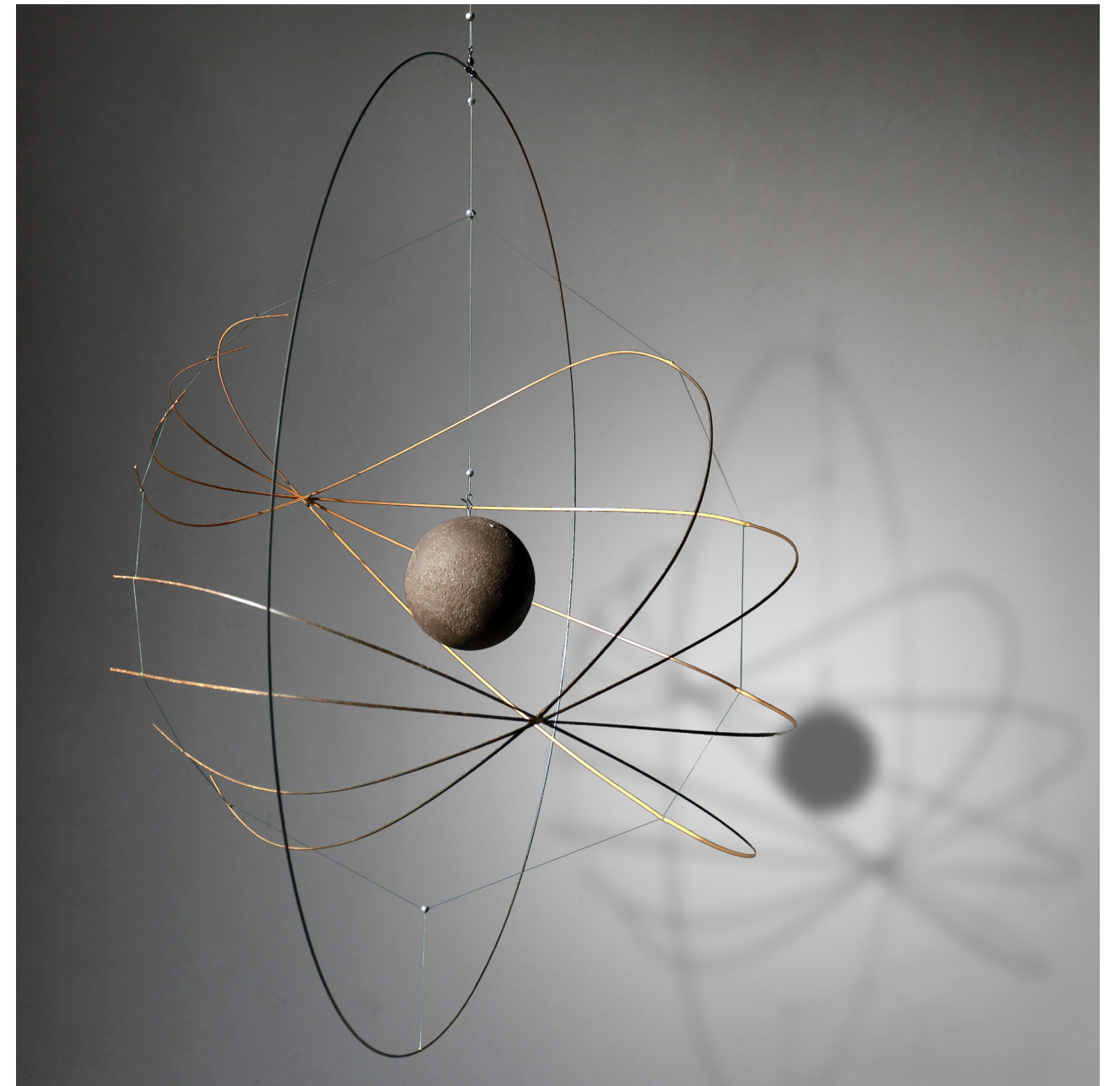
Laurent Martin “Lo”

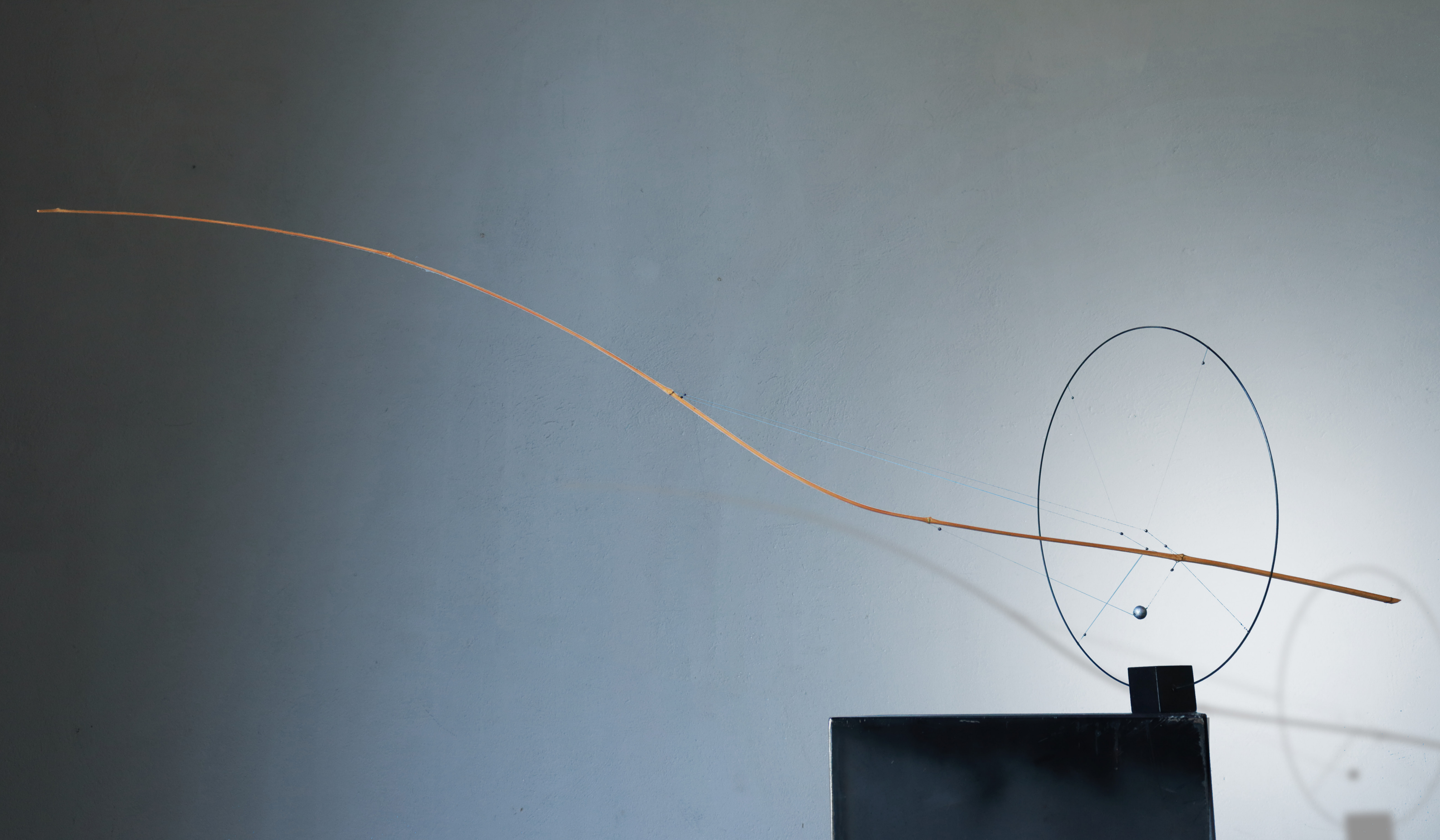
Inside 10, 2022

Taiwan smoked bamboo, titan braid thread, lead balls, ceramic ball

54 x 54 x 40 cm

Rotation diameter: 54 cm





Laurent Martin “Lo”

Piercing 01, 2023, Smoked bamboo from Taiwan,
Titan braid thread, lead balls, steel base, 48 x 158 x 43 cm



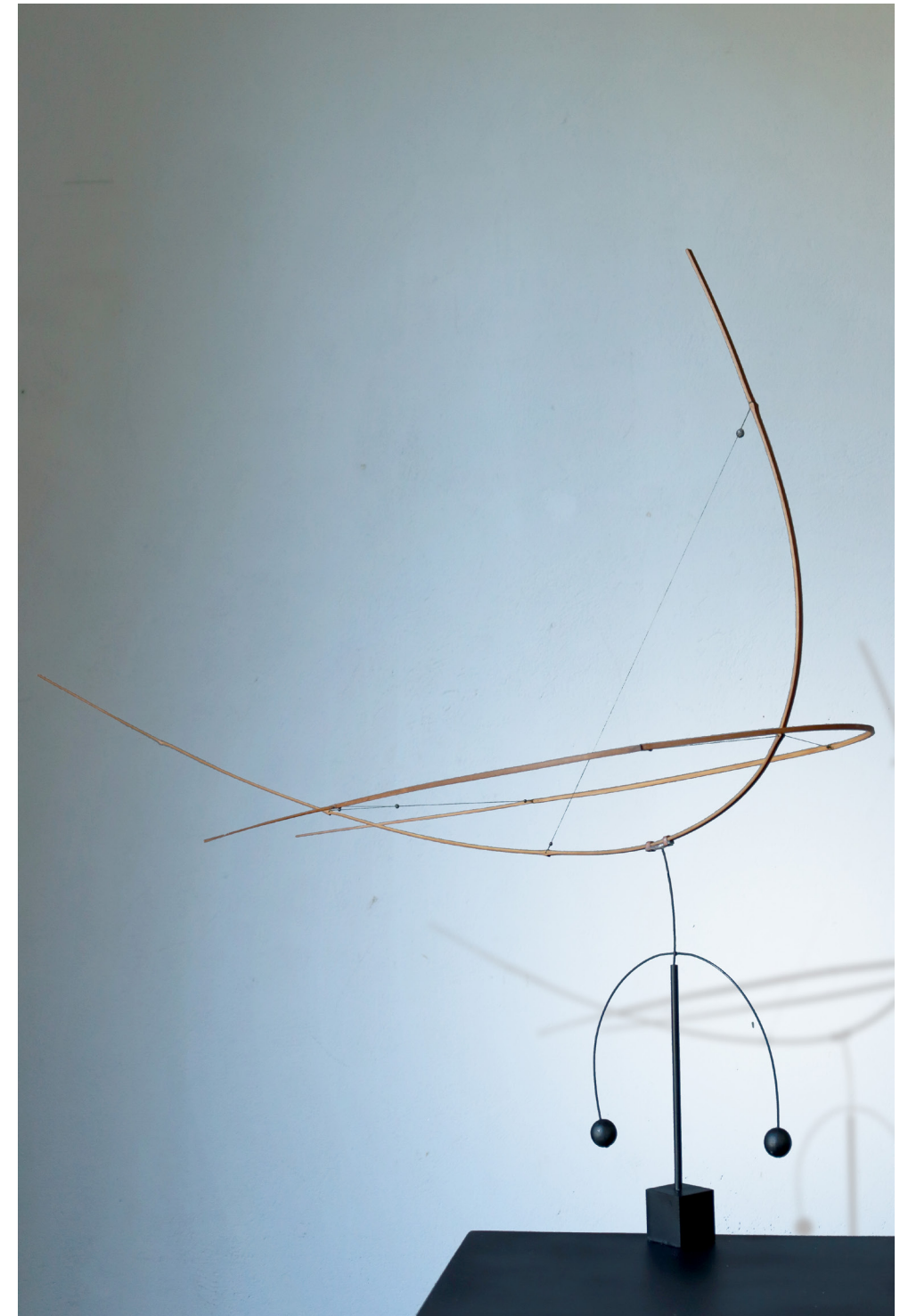
Laurent Martin “Lo”

Bon Vent O4 (Good Luck O4), 2023

Black bamboo from Bali, Titan braid thread, lead balls, steel & copper base

Height: 55 cm

Rotation diameter: 60 cm



Laurent Martin “Lo”

Hovering, 2023

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, lead balls, steel & copper base

Height: 85 cm

Rotation diameter: 174 cm



Laurent Martin "Lo"

Ongaku, 2022

Taiwan smoked bamboo, steel & copper base

H 71 x 38 x 20 cm

Rotation diameter: 38 cm



Laurent Martin "Lo"

Tightened Swing, 2021

Smoked bamboo from Taiwan, titan braid thread, lead balls, steel & copper base

Height: 87 cm

Rotation diameter: 40 cm

Laurent Martin “Lo”

Tango Lovers, 2022

Bamboo, titan braid thread, copper, ceramic balls

Height: 210 cm

Rotation diameter: 70 cm



“My aspiration was to create the sculptures wherein disciplines and improvisations intertwine. From utilitarian essence to lyrical essence. From tranquil repose to kinetic symphony, revealing the harmonious melody within spatial dimensions.”

– Laurent Martin “Lo”

LAURENT MARTIN “LO”

Laurent Martin “Lo” (Paris, 1955) trained as a visual artist in ENSAD (Paris) and for many years he worked as creative director both in advertising and fashion. His first encounter with bamboo was totally circumstantial but it was “love at first sight”, the artist says. Bamboo became his obsession, really a passion, that drove the artist to change his life. He left behind his work, house, city...to set up on his first trip to the bamboo countries. Since then he has been traveling long roads in search of the essence of bamboo. Roads which have taken him all over the world to countries that are in what the artist calls “the bamboo belt”...an imaginary terrestrial parallel running around the tropics which, thanks to bamboo, unites far-flung peoples and connects, from Americas to Asia, diverse cultures.

He travelled to remote areas of Thailand, Laos and Vietnam where for many communities the bamboo is still the main resource. Living with them, Laurent learnt the craftsmanship and different uses of bamboo. He also discovered the emotionality and millenary tradition of bamboo as well as its sensuality and spirituality. When he travelled to Central and South America, he followed the work of architects and engineers who used bamboo’s natural properties, flexibility and hardness, mixed with contemporary techniques and materials. The Indonesian trip meant the integration of bamboo’s emotional charges, the creativity and the architectural dimensions by discovering the fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary architecture.

Lo’s creative process has been mainly an evolution process. His creativity lies within his deep knowledge and understanding of bamboo. His artistic palette is within the physical and sensorial virtues of bamboo: its very sophisticated organic structure, but also its energy as well as its spirituality. Establishing an intimate dialogue with bamboo, “Lo” experiments its flexibility, resistance, density, lightness, mathematics and poetry. A language that allows him to combine both tension and compression, creating sculptures based on movement and balance.

His bamboo structures swing, drawing curves and harmony in the air. With his subtle yet strong gestures, tensions and counterweights, the artist tells us about a fragile harmony that is achieved using opposites: flexibility and strength, fullness and void, light and shadow, movement and quietness. “Lo” invites the spectator to begin a personal dialogue with themselves looking for calm, serenity and balance in nature.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024	Celestial Equilibrium, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
2023	Bamboo Lover, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain Solo Exhibition, Cartier, Paris, France
2022	Holy Circles, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain Cadaqués Soul, Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Girona, Spain Bamboo spaces, Sa Pleta Freda Gallery, Mallorca, Spain Museu Can Mario, Girona, Spain
2021	Dialogue, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain Bamboo Swing, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain Territorios compartidos, Mexico City, Mexico
2020	Crossing the void, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong Solo Exhibition, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain
2019	Visions in motion, Puerta roja, Hong Kong
2018	Reflections, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong Variations, Art’Loft, Brussels, Belgium Zhu Qi, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
2017	Vents, Galeria Patrick Domken Cadaqués, Spain Collectors Cabinet, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong Bamboo Trace, Contemporary International Bamboo Arts & Crafts, National Taiwan Crafts Taipei, Taiwan Development Institute, Taipei, Taiwan
2016	Intangible Space, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong Sur les Chemins du Bambou, Sculpture Museum Can Mario, Spain
2015	Bamboo Sculptor 2005-2015, Espai Volart, Fundació Vila Casas, Barcelona, Spain Taboo Bamboo, Patrick Domken Gallery, Cadaqués, Spain 10 Years with the Energy of Bamboo, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands
2014	Record’Art Cadaqués, Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Spain Bamboo Sail, Galeria Casavells, Girona, Spain
2013	Bamboo Energy, Ars et Scientia, Centro Médico Teknon, Barcelona, Spain Inside Bamboo, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain Movement and Space, Marges-U, Cadaqués, Spain Appertizers of Art, HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands
2012	One Bamboo Show, Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain Bamboo Spheres, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Bamboo Spheres, Ingracia Space, Barcelona, Spain
2011	Organic Geometry, Aina Nowack Gallery, Madrid, Spain The Soul of Wind, Tramuntan’art, Port de la Selva, Spain
2010	Bamboo Mind, HCH Gallery, The Hague, The Netherlands Galaxy, Impar Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil Inside Bamboo, Àmbit Gallery, Barcelona, Spain Bamboo Dreams, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Alphabet of Wind, Galería Pilar Riberaygua, Andorra Bamboo Spirit, K Space, Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

2009	Dream with Woman and Boat, Ruta de l’Art, Castelló d’Empúries, Spain (2010) Form and Colour, N2 Gallery, Barcelona, Spain The Route of Art, Castelló d’Empúries, Spain The Dead Nature, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain
2008	At the Edge of the Wind, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Body Bamboo, Ctartica Gallery, Torino, Italy
2007	Bamboo Wind, N3 Gallery, Madrid, Spain Bamboo Space, N2 Gallery, Barcelona, Spain Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Galería Juan Planellas, Tossa de Mar, Spain
2006	Bamboo Gove, Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Large Formats, Galería Ignacio de Lassaletta, Barcelona, Spain
2005	Bamboo Art Work Km7 Gallery, Girona, Spain Small Formats, Galería Ignacio de Lassaletta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022	SPACIOUS, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
2021	Love in the Dream, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
2020	The clown Spirit, Ronny Van De Velde Gallery, Antwerpen, Belgium
2019	Territorios Compartidos, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong Bailar de Arquitectura, Fernán Gómez, Madrid, Spain Las formas de la luz, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
2016	TOC, DA2, Domus Artium 2002, Salamanca, Spain Poétique quotidienne, Galerie Youn, Montreal, Canada
2015	This is not a love song, Pera Museum, Istanbul Expanded light: new technologies in spanish videoart, Telefónica Foundation, Madrid, Spain

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Shinedale Golf & Resort, Seoul, South Korea
Fundació Vila Casas, Bcelona, Spain
Museo Can Mario, Palafrugell, Spain
Koo House Museum of Art and Design Collection, Seoul, South Korea
Kai Yin Lo Collection, Hong Kong
Sun-Jet Collection, Vicky Liang, Taipei, Taiwan



ABOUT 10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY

Established in 2001, when Hong Kong's art scene was burgeoning, Katie de Tilly started 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. Along the back wall of the, then running, Victoria Prison, now the buzzing Tai Kwun Heritage and Cultural site, the little walking lane opened into a gallery specializing in contemporary art from the Asia-Pacific. Over the past 23 years, 10 Chancery Lane has worked with some of the region's great artists, curators, and museums. The gallery's motto still stands: *"We are committed to giving a breath of fresh air to the Hong Kong art scene by bringing works that can expand horizons, open minds, and view the world, and life in general, through varying eyes, ideas, and souls. Art is not just decoration for our walls but a connection with our deep inner selves and the world around us."*

10 號贊善里畫廊 (ABOUT 10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY)

10 號贊善里畫廊創辦人戴天利(Katie de Tilly)於 1994 年定居香港，並開始接觸和收藏中國及亞洲當代藝術。通過與不同藝術家和文化人接觸，她對中國歷史，社會狀況和文化環境展開深入了解。她於 2001 年成立 10 號贊善里畫廊，該畫廊位於中環大館的後牆，繼續探索和推介廣亞太區藝家，並積極推動文化藝術在香港的交流。在過去的 22 年裡，畫廊致力為香港藝術界注入新鮮空氣，秉持藝術能啟迪心靈、開闊思維、並影響我們看待自己和世界的角度，與亞太地區的藝術家、策展人和機構進行緊密合作，堅信藝術不僅僅是掛在牆上的飾品，更是我們內心深處和世界的一扇窗。

聯辦節目 | ASSOCIATED PROJECT



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10 Chancery Lane Gallery & Laurent Martin "Lo"

This booklet is published on the occasion of Laurent Martin Lo's solo exhibition.

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10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY