

Chain-of-thought

Cooper Jacoby

Nov 11 - Dec 28 2025

Opening - Nov 11 2025 / 7PM - 9PM

Wed Appointment Only

Thu - Sat 12PM - 7PM

Sun 2PM - 7PM

N/A will present *Chain-of-thought*, Cooper Jacoby's first solo exhibition in Seoul, on view from November 11 to December 28, 2025.

The exhibition follows how systems of communication, calculation, and collapse intertwine, exploring the points where technological systems and material bodies intersect.

At the center of the exhibition, *Model Collapse* shows two AI-enabled intercoms exchanging messages with one another. One is trained on the internal email archive of Enron—the collapsed American energy company and one of the first datasets used to train language models— and the other on a public archive of recorded dreams written and shared by individuals. Carved from burl wood, whose warped grain results from infection and deformation, the intercoms are mounted on an accordion-style office partition. They repeatedly replay and reinterpret each other's messages, slightly differently each time. As the dialogue repeats, it becomes increasingly unclear, its meaning scattering and drifting into hallucination.

Domesticator captures the moment when language returns to sensory matter.

A silicone cow tongue drags a sixty-sided die inside a modified flatbed scanner, forming a grotesque loop where flesh, light, prediction, and recognition intertwine.

Referencing the research of Ray Kurzweil—the developer of Optical Character Recognition (OCR), which taught machines to "read" through prediction—the work revisits the moment when language left the page and became data, recalling how human expression was absorbed as material for predictive systems.

Mutual Life extends this recursive logic into the structure of time.

Human and animal teeth slowly orbit mirrored domes, their movement delicately adjusted to the biological ages of the artist and his family, as determined by genetic testing. Each clock moves at a slightly different speed, and these subtle differences reveal how life insurance and biotechnology industries transform aging into a calculable financial asset. While mechanical calculation standardizes human time, it also exposes the rhythms of deviation and error that persist within it.

In *Twisted Pair*, the circuit of communication built throughout the previous works finds completion in sound.

Cast cow ears whistle through strands of barbed wire once used as telephone lines, revealing the invisible flow of signals. Within these faint vibrations lies a constant noise, showing that the material legacies of communication and calculation inevitably carry the flaws of their human creators.

The exhibition title, *Chain-of-thought*, is derived from a prompting technique used in artificial intelligence to simulate thought processes. Language models divide a single question into several steps to continue reasoning, but whether this process truly resembles human thought—or is merely a hallucinatory act of predicting the next word—remains open to debate. Jacoby expands this concept through the dialogic structure of *Model Collapse*, the feedback loop of the scanner and tongue in *Domesticator*, The temporal mechanism of *Mutual Life*, and the telephone lines of *Twisted Pair*, visualizing how thought and signal connect and entangle.

Cooper Jacoby (b. 1989, Princeton, NJ) lives and works in Paris.

Recent solo exhibitions include *The Living Substrate* (Fitzpatrick Gallery, Paris, 2024), *Mirror Runs Mouth* (High Art, Arles, 2022), and *Sun is Bile* (Fitzpatrick Gallery at The Intermission, Piraeus, 2022). Selected group exhibitions include *Éprouver l'inconnu* (MO.CO Montpellier Contemporain, 2025), *Onsen Confidential* (KAYOKOYUKI, Tokyo, 2024), *Solstice* (Galerie Crèveœur, Paris, 2023), and *Lifes* (Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2022).



Cooper Jacoby
Model Collapse, 2025
Resin-stabilized wood, speakers, electronics, painted steel, aluminum,
UV print on non-woven textile
200 x 450 x 38 cm



Cooper Jacoby
Mutual Life (37.1 years), 2024
Polished stainless steel, teeth human baby teeth, electronics, wax, mdf,
thermoplastic, acrylic, clear coat
35 x 35 x 14 cm