

## Unconditionally

There is a Korean proverb that says parents' love for their children is unconditional yet children's love for their parents is conditional. While the scale of love may not be measurable, this expression goes to say just how absolute and blind the parents' love for their children is. This might perhaps be something that is more apparent in the Korean culture, where parents tend to think of their children as an extension of themselves or a property of their right rather than as independent beings. And so that may be how unconditional and blind love is possible. Would such kind of love still be possible even if it weren't between blood relations of parents and their children?

My long-cherished dream since I was young has been to have a family. That doesn't mean I don't have parents or siblings: I do. However, I have not felt that kind of unconditional and blind sense of love. My parents raised me very independently, and for them, life as an individual was equally important as life as a parent. Having left home at 18 to study abroad, I lack that sense of solidarity and ties with my family. In the Korean society where absolute parental love is conventional, I have always felt relatively deprived in terms of emotionally.

Two years ago, I met someone who I loved with all my heart. Because I truly loved him, I thought that I could do everything for him. I was even ready to give up on my art career because he was not supportive of it. I wanted to marry him, but he ended up breaking up with me and I had no choice but to accept our parting. I loved him unconditionally, but he didn't. What was worse was that I never received the emotional support from my family, and I was utterly alone. And so maybe that's why I'm so yearning to have a family of my own. I wish to have a family, where we love each other unconditionally.

For this work, I combined parts of the body to create one body. Still using the thread, which symbolizes life, continuation, connection, and invisible ties(fate), half bodies were brought together into one. I created a blind, unconditional relationship where the self is lowered and the other is raised in order to create a collective body.