

F. Douglass Schatz

Artist's Statement

Through my research, I intend to bring feelings and thoughts that I have about life and the ever-changing universe to the viewer. If sculpture is the translation of thought into an object, and I think that it is, then my sculptures represent the experiences, emotions, and ideas which are constantly a part of my strange and wonderful life.

Recently, many of my works are essentially self-portraits and deal with my own perceived reality about the connection/disconnection between the body and mind. However, these experiences are not unique to me. The same feelings I have also apply to many others at some time in their lives. We all have a working relationship between our mind and body that allows us to function both without conscious effort and with deliberate purpose, often at the same time.

Materials that I use are combinations of found objects and fabricated forms. I am interested in creating a sense of instability and uneasiness in conjunction with seductive form and surface. I am also interested in humor, or at least irony. Electricity is an important element in some of my work because it represents power and connection between us all, and can be used as a metaphor for the mind. My hanging work lends itself to instability and creates potential energy within the work. Hanging work also negates the traditional sculptural base, and by doing so, extends the active space for the sculpture to occupy.

Time is a crucial element in my work. These pieces allude to time, but often do not actively participate in it. Some forms suggest growth, others suggest decay, but many of these pieces are outside of time. These pieces are 'in wait'. Wax represents the absence of time because it acts as a coating and preserver, keeping the underneath object protected and unchanged. However, the wax that I use is a petroleum byproduct created over millions of years from the gasses made by millions of decayed organisms and therefore is also an icon for the passing of time.

My outdoor work is a representation of the experiences that have come and gone in my life. Generally, they relate to my interest in scientific ideas that are prevalent in geology and earth sciences. The puzzle of the formation of the earth as it relates to time and gravity and earth processes is intriguing and ripe for artist exploration.

The 'event art' that I am involved with is an effort to explore the relationship between perception and reality within a group dynamic. These events utilize many different disciplines and sensory effects to form a cohesive experience that is for the viewer a private experience within the framework of group existence. This relationship is one of the many important aspects as to how we function as individuals within our societal construct, and how we function as cogent entities within our physical and automatic being.