

12-17-2011

Perry B Marks • Artist Statement

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Recommended Citation

Marks, Perry B, "Perry B Marks • Artist Statement" (2011). *CGU MFA Theses*. Paper 38.
http://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_mfatheses/38

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My work cuts through the distractions and travesties of modern American life, revealing the nonsense that multinational corporations spew. Consumption as a way of life is now a familiar part of the global culture. Political and corporate icons have made their way into individual identity by means of branding, product placement and crossover promotion. They are ubiquitous, embedded in myriad experiences to attract, entertain and satisfy artificially stimulated appetites. Similar to placating drugs, they function like the bread and circuses of the Roman Empire.

My process breaks down elements and symbols from the past and present, remixing old and new to create another level of complexity. Media bombardment serves up a steady diet of mind-numbing hindrance. My work is a glitch in the system, a hiccup in the normal. With no formula or recipe to follow, I make work that provokes a memory or an engaging experience. I am attracted to absurdity, I don't always go looking for it but I keep running into it. The ludicrous often finds its way into my work, creating a stop-the-clock moment. Viewer are caught in the crossfire where the humorous and serious subjects commingle and new thoughts are stimulated.

Outside the studio, I am attracted to the obscure. I soak it in, mull it over, and digest everything I experience. I keep a sketchbook, drawing and writing regularly. When I am in the studio I immerse myself in multiple projects. This allows me to create a conversation and an interplay among ideas and to reflect on how they might best be communicated. My studio itself is a work in progress, a collage of ideas in flux. I bring elements together and begin to develop connections until the space is almost bursting. Then I clear the space and get to work.

I am fascinated by notions of identity, by ideas of who I am and how I am defined. My work is a search to discover the obscure elements that define who and what we are, as well as the roles that we play. Our consumer-driven society constantly catalogues the value of everything, the new model, the latest electronic toy or cell phone application. People are also classified, categorized, and sorted, obscuring fundamental human value and differences.

As an artist, I take great satisfaction in remixing the visual music into a new tune. Rather than exploring territories of the physical, I seek instead to discover territories of the mind and soul. I ask the questions of who, what, how and why. In order to seek a truth to one's self, to transverse the internal and the external, perhaps to create an order for one's self, one's identity. My goal is to raise questions about what is held onto from the past and what is discarded. My art interrupts business as usual. A sort of distraction raised to the second power, it pushes and pulls perception toward my point of view. Ultimately, my work deepens the conversation, adding layers of complexity that are above, below and embedded in the things around us.