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Reticent Doodle

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My artwork presents constructs formed by derailing the influence of the conscious mind. By using the process of doodling I seek to show the constant thought process that goes unnoticed by the active human brain. This uncovering of thought allows my work to look at the mind's process of information intake and storage. I hope to reveal the contradictions of the subconscious mind, it's capacity to be simultaneously restless and at peace with itself. This dichotomy, built into the unpredictability of the human mind animates my sculptures.

Structures are integral to my work as they are simple objects. They are armatures stripped of unnecessary elements. There is no trompe-l'œil. They are simply load-bearing forms that are more often than not hidden from sight by decorative or utilitarian skins. By stripping away such deceptive sheathings, I lay the structures bare. They are both visual and vulnerable, no matter what they are made of. Their fusion of strength and vulnerability is a building block of my practice. While making a structure can be a simple routine, I am more interested in making complex often unstable works that the mind cannot process.

Working in a linear fashion, I begin each piece with a single line visualized in my head. There are no drawings, plans or models. They are too restrictive. So I work intuitively. Intuition is not instinct. Instinct is innate. Intuition is learned. By working line by line, I allow the piece to come together as I build. This process of building off of a blank slate allows for my mind to be completely focused on the developing form. The normal stimuli of life fades away and my brain is at peace as the sculpture slowly comes into being. This intuitive process leads me to the playful nature of my works core concept.

The idea of doodling is integral to my artwork. I see a division between drawing and doodling. Drawing as an action has several concerns, the most important being that there is an expected end result or goal. Doodling has no such expectation. There is no evident goal, it is simply a process. This idea of the process being the focal point of the work denies the importance of the line. While line is the foundation of my practice, it is the final product of this process that holds the concept of my sculptures. The overlapping forms, incomplete circles and geometric shapes show the process of memory as an ever changing, constantly working presence within the human mind.

Scientifically speaking, doodling is shown to be a form of unconscious stimulus that allows the mind to focus on the task at hand. This stems from the idea that our five senses are continuously processing information. This type of processing leads to a majority of information being ignored and discarded due to it being useless to the task at hand. I am interested in this discarded information. While a part of our minds deem this type of knowledge to be useless, our brain still records it. It is a part of our history and memory, percolating just beneath the surface of full consciousness, forever unseen and unidentifiable. This discarded information shows up during the act of doodling. This idea of a free flow of information can be seen in the freedom I give my materials

My process of handling materials gives my work a good enough to get it done appearance. This comes from a rejection of any kind artistic mastery. Instead of dominating my materials, I seek to work in a cooperative fashion with them. When I work with a material, I fall in love with it. I find its beauty in otherwise insignificant details. The materials I use most are industrial building materials, such as steel, copper and bamboo. One common thread in these materials is that they are difficult to work with. Each resists manipulation to the point of destroying itself in the artist's hands. While I manipulate them, I allow the materials significant leeway, to slide through my hands and to alter slightly from my vision. They are free to disrupt my plans. This disruption fractures my vision yet binds me mentally while I become an observer of process that unfolds according to a logic I do not quite grasp. A logic that is at once created, used and forgotten, captured only in my doodles.

