

Claremont Colleges

Scholarship @ Claremont

CGU MFA Theses

CGU Student Scholarship

Spring 2-25-2020

Capacity

Rachel Baydian

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_mfatheses



Part of the [American Art and Architecture Commons](#), [Art Practice Commons](#), [Ceramic Arts Commons](#), [Contemporary Art Commons](#), [Fine Arts Commons](#), and the [Sculpture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Baydian, Rachel, "Capacity" (2020). *CGU MFA Theses*. 183.
https://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_mfatheses/183

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the CGU Student Scholarship at Scholarship @ Claremont. It has been accepted for inclusion in CGU MFA Theses by an authorized administrator of Scholarship @ Claremont. For more information, please contact scholarship@cuc.claremont.edu.

Capacity

MFA Thesis Exhibition by Rachel Baydian

I am a participant in nature as a human and a maker. My work is testimony of this relationship between humans and our native environment through experience and materiality.

I have created a meditative space to experience a humble, yet powerful, connection with the earth. The clay vessels are hollow expanses of earth that explore physicality and tactility. *Capacity* is about reaching into the clay and finding something that is innate to the universe. Placed in a posture of reverence to land, my pieces are devotional objects that are emblematic of the greater systems of the universe and our part in it.

Form, scale, and surface gesture towards aspects of our environment. Sense memory inspired these forms and textures into being— the feeling of running my fingertips across a granite wall on a hike, sitting in the dirt in a heavily treed forest floor, climbing up heights to gain elevation. Interfacing with the land results in a newfound sense of awe and wonder. I want these sculptures to have a bodily aspect to them, where they hover between existing as a geological form or maybe a figure, thus continuing the narrative of our complex relationship with nature. By bringing the vivacity and essence of the outdoors inside, it ripens a sense of pleasure, beauty, and wholeness that celebrates life.

To experience the work to the fullest extent, you are invited to sit amongst the sculptures.

















