

Artist Statement

I am driven by the opportunity art-making gives me: to invent forms and manipulate materials. Preparation of materials and planning before the fabrication of a project is key to my creative process. There is a lot of cutting, carving, sanding, painting, and positioning of materials in my work. Pushing the properties of a medium to its limits is when growth happens for me; then I get a chance to learn something. Expressing and suggesting levels of meaning in a composition made with multiple materials is when I sense accomplishment in making a work of art. The final product displays my abilities and control over the medium I employed. I work until I have captured that level of detail and meaning to engage the viewer.

The transformation of materials into objects is central to my work. Some of my art is a commentary on robots and their possible future interaction with humans. One project consists of a robot/mannequin placed in different scenes that displays the inability of robots to ever fully replace humanity (like building a snowman or practicing a religion), then photographing these situations so the message is captured forever. I am showing that no matter how complex robots may become, they will still never be human. Some of my other work is left up to chance, for example, by pouring two differently colored resins together into a highly crafted mold. Everything is controlled up to the pouring of the two colors. There is still a process for each transformation of materials, but a different level of control.

Experience and education also drive my ideas. I embrace working in the studios alongside my fellow classmates, conversing and critiquing with them frequently. Additionally, I have been highly inspired by viewing actual works of art during my travels across the U.S. Having seen many famous galleries and museums has allowed me to conduct firsthand research on contemporary art. I also like to follow great thinkers of the time like Elon Musk and Russel Brand. Musk's commentaries on artificial intelligence have inspired my thoughts, and Brand's witty, comedic advice on this life is also a contributor to some of my ideas for Rob (the robot-mannequin). Recently learning about Constantin Brancusi's work, I am also inspired by his exploration of the same form using different materials. This inspiration has caused me to replicate some of my resin forms using clay.