

I put the “fun” in “function.” Many of my sculptures appear mechanical in some way, and some have kinetic elements but perform useless and needlessly complex functions. What purpose do they serve? How important is purpose or function? Are things defined by what they are or what they do? My work is absurd and playful; I examine function and purpose in a way that is meant to be fun and lighthearted.

I am interested in walking the line between work and play, so my sculptures reference imagery reminiscent of construction and industrial machines, as well as childhood toys. I incorporate building block forms and paper planes to speak to a child’s first ventures into construction and their first attempts to defy the laws of nature. I juxtapose those playful elements with machine-like components, including cogs and gears, chains, and structures reminiscent of oil derricks. The handling of surfaces and use of different materials throughout the works helps to create visual tension. I juxtapose brightly colored forms reminiscent of childhood with bare wood and metal surfaces.

Our basic needs for survival are the same as any animal. What distinguished mankind from animals centuries ago is the creation of tools and utilitarian items to meet those needs more efficiently. I use materials and methods that have traditionally been used to make functional utilitarian items, and while I do make things that function, they ultimately lack utilitarian value. This is important to my work conceptually, because process and medium play a huge role in the creation of my pieces.

When making art I am intrigued by the ways that the physicality of medium direct the process of artmaking. My initial idea is never compromised but is transformed in response to the medium I am working in. I like for the labor to be exposed; for the viewer to be able to see evidence of the hand in the work.

I use traditional woodworking methods and a variety of woods to create components for my sculptures, including lathe-turned spindles, often turned on multiples axes, chain components, and functional wooden nuts and bolts. The steel components of my work are made by cutting, bending, welding, and grinding sheets of steel or various round and square steel rods.

Utilizing industrial process, machines, and materials to create elements that are ambiguously industrial and toy-like provides another source of juxtaposition to the work by contrasting process with finished aesthetic. It also provides authenticity to my interest in blurring the line between work and play because my process is labor intensive but I enjoy it.