

## **Dewane Hughes/ Artist Statement**

### **Statement:**

I use materials and processes commonly employed by modern and contemporary artists such as welding, casting, forging, and metal fabrication. I use steel purchased from both scrap yards and companies in a variety of forms such as flat sheets, cut-outs, elbows, and beams as well as found forms such as plumb bobs and wheels.

In my past work, I created forms to suggest paper airplanes, bird houses, rippling wind, streams of rain, clouds, crescent moon, and crepuscular light. I have continued this same methodology and practice of steel fabrication but have expanded my visual vocabulary to include newfound interest in the notion of system, so that references to the botanical and machine industry are apparent.

For nearly twenty years, my work has been inspired by language, and more specifically referencing the poetry of The Beat Generation, where I aimed to create a visual aesthetic for the literary concept of “slang”. Upon examination and introspection, I came to the realization that on a deeper level, I was ultimately investigating the concept of system.

Language is simply a system, and poetry a subset of that system, and Beat Poetry further so. Stepping back to gain a broader perspective, it becomes apparent that watching nature unfold is the opening of a system in that same way.

A locomotive beginning its journey on a rail track is the evolution of a system, such as the system of a blooming blossom, or the writing of a song.

The investigation into a universal perspective necessitates the imagery that I use, but it also demands the exploration into fresh processes and materials. Because of this transition, I’ve incorporated new machinery in my personal studio space like electric tubing rollers, as well as new materials like bronze plate, stainless steel plate and perforated mild and stainless-steel sheets.

The resulting imagery reveals parts of flowers such as petals, stamens (with filaments and anthers), stems and so forth combined with recognizable machine-like references such as faucet handles, plumb bobs, wheels, hand cranks, propellers, ball bearings, rings, I-beams and so forth. The surfaces are finished in wax patina, metal paint, or powder coating colors.

I am interested in the possibility of perspective, reimagining, and transcendence—whether it be through the examination of existence, through surrealistic storytelling or through the innovative utilization of found materials.