

William Brayton: Artist Statement 2022

Chance, gravity and implied motion are three forces that shape my studio practice. I make sculptural parts and then assemble them without a pre-conceived plan, a process that is highly dependent upon the role of chance. This mysterious force expands my imagination. Gravity affects my sculpture's balance and perceived weight. Its properties can be felt in the gut. The disruption of a pattern reveals an implied motion, like a hay field that has been altered by a gust of wind. In ways that I can't predict, this force sometimes evokes an emotional response. Using materials from the built environment links me to the larger world of laborers. Wood, aluminum, bronze, acrylic and concrete come pre-loaded with histories and environmental consequences that I try to use in a thoughtful way. Where linear curves meet, riveting, bolting, and welding become literal and metaphorical points of connection. The choice of fastener brings varying levels of tension and attention to these focal points. Local wind patterns, epic sailing voyages, invasive vines and wooden boatbuilding techniques are other areas of research that run parallel to my work in the studio. At its root, I find each new sculpture through an improvisational making process that is influenced by forces beyond my control.