

Steve Briscoe: *Processors, Barriers and Implements*

The Processors, crisply checkered boxes acting both as metaphorical bodies and brains, describe some binary process or ask a topical or existential question. They are homemade, improvised and crude, imperfect and divided. I am using rope and pulleys as diagrammatic devices, referring to the equations of advantage – mechanical or otherwise.

In other works, the less precise cladding of black and white are more wall-like, hurriedly cobbled together out of necessity to keep someone or something out or in. They describe the fracturing that we feel, precariously balancing our interests against those of others. The fragmentary clutter threatens to overwhelm us, much as waves of information muddy our thoughts. We feel so alone in our bodies and minds that we often forget that we are interdependent, connected as part of a matrix of shared experience and environment.

The more tool-like implements are part of a long series of works that reference usefulness or a nonspecific purpose. Some of these were made in the wake of the insurrection at the Capitol building and the inauguration that almost wasn't.

Built now on forty years of trying different things, my sculpture is fabricated using the materials that are necessary. I try not to use more than is necessary and I try to recycle and repurpose as much as I can. I often allow second-hand objects to make suggestions, but I will add or augment or connect them to complete the work. Some are gestures, some are statements of position, some are observations, but none are singular in meaning or message.

I hope this selection of work provides worthy mysteries in which the elements and the connections between them imply relationships, dependencies, and order. Answers shift with the viewer, the time of day and the arc of history.

Steve Briscoe

10/31/21