

Sara Mulhauser Artist Statement

My current work draws on vivid color, expanded form, and fluid movement to explore the shifting forces found in nature. The sculptures emerge from an interest in atmospheric and glacial phenomena, particularly clouds and icebergs, whose presence can be both ethereal and monumental. Clouds carry a sense of buoyancy and drama, creating environments that can disorient, lift, or completely arrest the viewer. Icebergs, by contrast, evoke the complexity of interior worlds: what is presented on the surface and what remains concealed beneath it.

Working with insulation foam allows for a direct, intuitive cutting process that keeps the forms light yet expansive. The material supports the sculptural language I'm building, one rooted in gesture, energy, and expressive abstraction. Through these forms, I continue to pursue imagery that confronts viewers with the immense power and quiet volatility of natural systems.

Icebergs, in particular, embody dualities that resonate with human experience. Their luminous surfaces suggest cold so intense it becomes a kind of burn, while the vast majority of their mass remains submerged, shaping the visible portion in ways that are felt but not seen. This dynamic offers a compelling metaphor for emotional depth, vulnerability, and resilience. The aspects of ourselves we offer to the world are often just the visible tip: accomplishments, humor, composure. Beneath that float the unseen influences that define us more profoundly—memory, fear, perseverance, loss, and the slow pressures of time.

To encounter a person, or to understand one's own life, requires looking beyond the surface and imagining the weight and contours of what lies below. My sculptures invite viewers into that deeper consideration, using the language of clouds and icebergs to reflect on presence, interiority, and the unseen forces that give shape to the visible world.