

ALLISON PASCHKE

Statement of Artistic Intent 2017

Almost all of my work is interactive. Sometimes movement through space and light affects the experience; sometimes the interaction is directly physical. I am looking for a present tense engagement that opens into layers of association and meaning. My process is an intuitive balancing of the tensions between opposing forces.

Object vs. Place

While each wall piece, sculpture, or installation consists of physical objects, it also creates a place for the mind. The altered mirrors are soft distorted worlds to move past and peer into; The installations become worlds inside tiny porcelain elements; the small box sculptures form hand-held rooms, and so on.

Geometry vs. Imperfection

The attraction toward geometric simplicity is followed by a desire to add subtle complexity. For example, a perfect porcelain cube slumps in firing, or a simple square mirror develops richness and variation with the addition of translucent layers. Geometry is abstract perfection; imperfections introduced by materials and process prevent sterility.

Subtlety vs. Intensity

To reduce, simplify, and visually quiet an image leads to the magnification and intensification of visual phenomena. Cracks and wrinkles are rich and tactile on an all-white porcelain surface. Shifts in texture between brush strokes and tiny bubbles become significant in a context of almost monochrome amber-colored resin.

The Miniature vs. the Vast

Each piece shifts between tiny and huge. Large wall and installation pieces are filled with thousands of tiny details that pull viewers into an intimate closeness. Tiny sculptural or wall pieces contain areas of emptiness that open out into a void. The porcelain boxes are hand-held size but contain a simple glowing world of indeterminate scale.

Two vs. Three Dimensions

The impulse to enrich a flat surface balances a desire to simplify a dimensional object, and so each piece lies between two and three dimensions. For example, a translucent resin block is both a solid object and a permeable plane. In mirror paintings, because compositions are kept simple and open, reflections bring in the dimensionality of the piece's context.

Fragility vs. Immortality

The ephemeral is especially beautiful to me: the passing of light and the delicate and fragile. Trying to capture these things is a futile bid for immortality. Porcelain is an ideal material to express this paradox, as it is both easy to break and durable for centuries in the earth. Amber resin is another material associated with preservation of insects and plants over thousands of years.