

Artist Statement

My work always starts with a recognizable form or found object—perhaps a garden tool or kitchen utensil. It is that recognizable form that is the entryway into the work, and where that entrance leads is where the art lies. It is a place discovered through making analogies between forms and ideas, through using physical matter to realize spiritual concepts, and by allowing metaphors to bring meaning into the realm of the mundane. As a sculptor, materials are the vocabulary with which I speak. The transparency and fluidity of glass suggests water--- a precious natural resource and a symbol of the transient, ephemeral nature of life itself. Performing rain dances to make it rain or placing a rosary on a bush to keep rain away on a special day, humans have often tried to affect the weather. Sadly, we've succeeded. Severe droughts, rising sea levels, and more frequent cataclysmic weather events are all attributed to climate change caused by the actions of humans. The found object elements in my mixed media sculptures indicate human activity or purpose, while the glass elements represent water in its many forms. Flurries are raked; clouds are crimped; and hail is popped-- poetic attempts to control weather and to preserve water. The futility of the implied acts, such a popping hail, speaks to both the overwhelming nature of the problem as well as to the meagerness of our responses to the crisis. The fragility of glass as the medium underscores our vulnerability.