

Artist Statement 2019
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Clayarch Gimhae Museum

Perception is a process whereby incoming neural messages triggered by our senses, blends with existing emotion, memories and beliefs forming our inner reality. In the field of IT, researchers focus on learning how systems process and utilize streams of data. The field of AI goes further, in examining how perception works for development of intelligent machines. I'm interested in exploring the relationships of AI systems to human nature from a progressive perspective, informed by research into perception, exceptional animal capabilities, communication and emergent technologies.

This ongoing body of work, titled "Post Biological Mutations" communicates through subject matter involving references to parts animals and technologies. Gestural or static qualities contribute to the emotional undertone connecting each piece with that same underlying influence within ourselves. The paring of references to animal senses or capabilities with related current or emergent machines/ devices, imparts a sense purpose to each form. The emphasis on such curiously ambiguous functions, serves to rouse reflection on what it means to exist in tech dependent societies. The environment in which these creatures or organisms exist, is additionally of increasing interest to me. Recent pieces, *Rural Repository* and *Bird Bot Outstation*, incorporate this consideration along with the tenants.

Each sculpture is produced through a range of methods in building with [various] clays including pinch, coil, slab, press and slip casting, and throwing. The combination of forms produced by hand combined with those on the wheel or cast, offers a contrast for aesthetics of touched and untouched, or rather natural and machined. This effect is further enhanced by choice of surface treatments, which may include anything required to contribute to the individualization of each form. The multiple references, building methods and surface treatments, ultimately lead to the pieces having a biomechanical or biomimetic quality.

The intent for each piece is to produce heedfully playful sculptures, which are ideologically deep yet approachable. Viewers are invited to look through the futuristic lens from which the pieces are imagined. The aim of this body of work is to impart an overall experience of wonderment toward a place in time where technologies have integrated with living organisms and evolved. It is to further produce an impression, that one has entered a space where the entities have been plucked from an unknown place, where evidence of humanity is present only in the nature of the inhabitants and the systems in which they exist

As our understanding of the senses thickens, researchers are pushing boundaries of the integration of these systems. I am motivated to produce work from both an investigative and instinctual position, while maintaining a level of approachability for the effect of stimulating curiosity and conversation. Participants ideally will experience the sculptures in a way that turns their attention to surrounding advancements, their benefits and impact. A pause for contemplation is encouraged for reflection on ones self and humanity within this context.