

sasha koozel reibstein

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Artist's Statement

I have an obsession with transformation and alchemy that manifests itself through sculptures that undulate between soft and hard, alive and static, while embracing a glam aesthetic that dazzles. I freeze the moment when one thing metamorphoses into another, offering only brief glimpses of clear representation when serpent becomes succulent or solid becomes liquid. Fragility and vulnerability are captured through tenuous and off kilter drip formations that simultaneously appear to be rising and falling, abstractly depicting creatures either on the brink of collapse or mid-awakening. I am particularly interested in the idea of hope and illusion, wanting to offer lush forms that entice through obsessive detail and shimmering surfaces which appear too brilliant, too seductive to be what they seem. This surrealism addresses the instability of reality and our memory in a time when facts are fluid and individual perspective is blinding. It is my hope to take advantage of this instability to embrace the unknown and fantasy as a means of escape and to perhaps offer solace in the form of the unexpected and alchemic.

The materiality of my work also incorporates this transformative element as malleable clay becomes permanently altered into ceramic through fire and cultivated crystals react to moisture and sunlight, allowing them to slowly evolve over time with subtle alterations of color and surface quality. Both of these materials inherently contain an element of mystery, inspiring wonder and curiosity. My usage of glitter has a similar aim, taking advantage of its mysterious origin and allure. It has been theorized that our attraction to glitter is based in our instinctual need to seek out the sparkle of fresh water for sustenance and survival, allowing us to have a universal attraction to its iridescence and shimmer.

Recent works have also included more representational elements, depicting flora, fauna and rock which merge and metamorphize from one into the other. These are inspired by the vanitas tradition, exploring mortality and our ephemeral life cycle. Through this combination of realism and fantasy, these works aim to create an immersive experience of wonder that evokes contemplation about beauty and the unknown.