

RJ Sturgess

Artist Statement

My mixed media sculptures look at life through the lens of vulnerability, awkwardness, and discomfort, embracing the perspective that ugliness, weakness, and flaws are part of what it means to be human. By creating unusual, awkward relationships between biomorphic ceramic forms and fragmented elements of domestic space, I provoke feelings of discomfort. This discomfort echoes uncomfortable memories and their lingering effects. By appearing vulnerable, weak, and weird – yet familiar – these works reveal how I view myself.

My sculptures ask for investigation through unexpected elements like faux fur, hair, rolls, or crevices. These bodily references are a vital component to my work because I consider the forms to be representations of myself. Their blobby, structureless forms recreate my everchanging level of anxiety, my perpetual reliving of awkward moments. Decisions about form, surface treatment, and space highlight the awkwardness of each piece and, therefore, questions what comfort is.