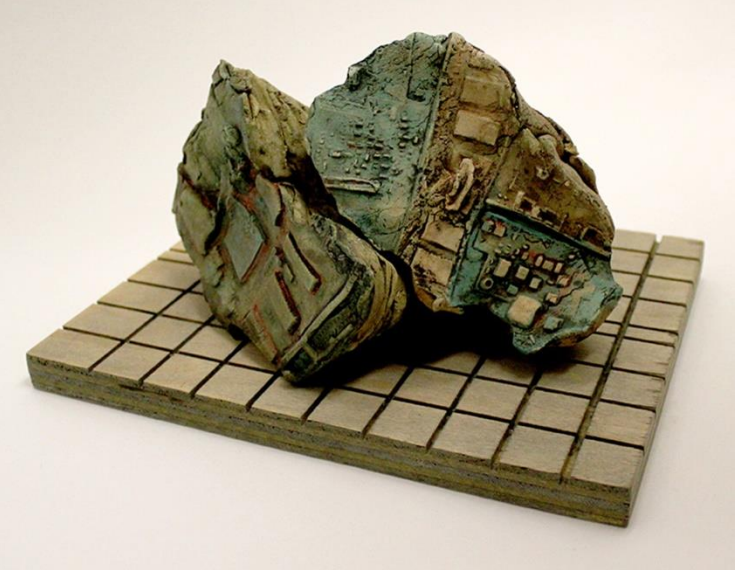


TRACE- ARTIFACTS AND SPECIMENS OF THE FUTURE

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ABSTRACT

Trace is a pseudoscientific investigation of potential artifacts, specimens, and fossils, of 21st century American culture. This series considers how these findings might be interpreted and valued in the future and what histories or narratives these artifacts might tell. When exploring museums of any kind I find myself lost in thought, imagining the world that these artifacts, specimens, or fossils existed in and curious about the authenticity of interpretation through categorizing collections. This series of work takes the familiar artifacts of our time and turns them into undefined foreign remnants for the future open to new interpretation and cultural appropriation. Archeological findings on land are found embedded in the earth, making clay a sensible construction material choice. Metal castings are also present because of the similarity between casting a metal object and the geological process of remineralization or replacement. Each artifact is imbedded in sediment that gives clues about what natural environment it may have existed in. Larger specimens have structural ruins imbedded in them that seem to be frozen in the moments before complete collapse. Crystals and organic growths representative of earth's continual and evolving cycles decorate the surface of each sedimentary form. Art display is conceptually important in this series. Pieces are displayed on shipping crates, observation tables, metal specimen trays, or in sorted collections. The selected display device places a value and associations on these specimens.



TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

Technical challenges included developing a clay body that steel could be directly fired into and selecting a display device most appropriate for specimen display. The low fire white paper clay body Terra Blanc was developed for this body of work and enabled steel objects to be fired directly into the clay. Extensive research on a variety of display methods was done including, installation, performance, time sensitive, interactive, site specific, and alternative display devices. A variety of display methods were selected for displaying specimens from the Trace Series. In order to gain fresh perspectives the Trace concept was translated across medias and developed into two-dimensional drawings, ceramic and metal sculptures. Two pieces from the Trace series have been juried into national and international competitions and exhibitions.

