

Brandon Secret
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Artist Statement:

I choose to execute tasks. I choose a task and I execute that task, often many times. The work involved is embedded in the form by way of the confluence of process and material. Another way of saying work, for the purpose of clarity, is to say effort or struggle. In this way, work done well or poorly, and done so iteratively, is itself an extant quality on view and an affect available for the agent of perception; affect is always a choice in my work. Working repeatedly is a performance by which larger things are accomplished and by performing in this way the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

Not all of my work is a whole thing in this sense. Some of my works are just artifacts of work, further evidence of working. I will admit that those artifacts could then become a whole collection but not a whole in the sense that I mean it. What I mean is that even though the whole can be, so called, greater, greater is not necessarily greater in any qualitative sense. Greatness is ascribed, not prescribed; it is given, not chosen. All I can do as an artist is simply do, and do as well as possible given the chosen or real constraints.

Artists do, they perform. I perform at the most basic level, choosing and executing. This can be seen in the work, painting, performance, sculpture, all of it. A sheet of fabric, the same room with the same actor, a chair, each painted, performed or constructed respectively, over and over. Doing the thing well, working over and over, this is the aesthetic. Transcending the object is my object, the artifact is the object for the viewer outside of my mind. Doing is thinking, research and production all in one. Doing art is the method in advance of discovery; I do, I work and this performance enables discovery.

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