

Artist Statement (long)

Rebecca Waring-Crane

Spring 2020

Story is my medium.

Because the stories we tell ourselves inform how we move in the world, how we relate to ourselves and each other, I revisit and reshape the stories I'm telling myself as a way to understand and find the humanity in them—the humor, awkwardness, bravery, shame, kindness, grief. Mine. Yours. Ours.

Navigating the terrain of experience and memory, I make sculptural objects and installations that render internal stories as external. Each story, its tone, and the questions it raises for me, determines the materials I use. Glass conveys strength, transparency, fragility. Wood speaks of layers, roots, passing time. Found objects nod to previous purpose, former identity, disposability.

At times my storytelling transforms familiar objects a little, or a lot, to posit fresh perspective, thwart expectations, and challenge meaning: measuring cups without markers pose for a portrait; a torso that looks like marble but made of soap is framed by a utility sink.

On other occasions a story requires unexpected materials to form familiar yet ersatz shapes: an army of prescription pill bottles formed of solid glass glow on a dark shelf, life-sized plywood legs writhe like branches out of a stump, a spindly and towering swing boasts a thick seat made of glass, soap, insulation, cloth.

Believing that what is most personal is most universal, each work invites viewer reflection. Each work is meant to prompt viewers' self-curiosity: *Have I ever felt like this? And What stories am I telling myself?*

My hands-on, process-based practice reflects my love affair with material, an ongoing media promiscuity that seeks out the most effective and exciting vocabulary for storytelling. This vocabulary allows for work that suggests multiple readings rather than obvious, easy conclusions. Whatever the story you tell yourself, I hope that seeing my stories reminds you, dear viewer, that you are not alone.

Artist Statement (short)

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Navigating the terrain of experience and memory, I make sculptural objects and installations that render internal stories as external. I revisit and reshape stories I'm telling myself as a way to understand and find the humanity in them—the humor, awkwardness, bravery, shame, kindness, grief. Mine. Yours. Ours.

My storytelling transforms familiar objects—measuring cups, a mirror, a swing— a little, or a lot, to posit fresh perspective, thwart expectations, and discomfit quick conclusions.

Believing that what is most personal is most universal, each work invites viewers to ask themselves *Have I ever felt like this? And What is the story I'm telling myself?*

Exploring a broad vocabulary of medium, my hands-on, process-based work suggests multiple readings rather than quick conclusions. Whatever the story you tell yourself, I hope that seeing my stories reminds you that you are not alone.