

Artist Statement

Ryan Mitchell

The world we inhabit fluctuates between moments of chaos, brute hostility, and profound examples of care and beauty. Our efforts center on the preservation and protection of what we cherish and value. The implications of our efforts often escape our grasp and intentions, it is for this reason, that as an artist I am interested in how we choose to handle and engage the world we create and are given.

Clay provides an opportunity to explore these relationships, both in the creative process and in terms of the final product. In any given event, clay can simultaneously be about both human intention and natural occurrence. It is a material through which we can understand the full spectrum of human history: birth, creation, destruction and eventual decay. Metaphorically or literally, it serves to ground us, as well as record nearly every aspect of our existence.

I tend to look for meaning and truth in the residue and rubble of our daily world, rather than in the pursuit of our ideals. It is there that I see the need for coaxing beauty out of ugliness, and the choice for finding grace amidst vulnerability and uncertainty.