

Hope Rovelto  
Artist Statement

When approaching a creative idea, I first investigate the meaning then vividly see the finished piece in my mind. With the combination of my knowledge, hands and intelligence, I recreate the work in 3-dimensional installations. Connections and frustrations with my past, present and future, fuel my ideas. Instead of referencing myself directly as the subject I use chairs as the metaphor for self and people overall.

The chairs are mass-produced in clay from plaster molds, which were cast from real chairs. I use the process of making molds from real functional chairs and generate them into non-functional clay chairs. Transforming a recognizably functional chair into a non-functional object causes the viewer to interact on a more conceptual level. I am attracted to the unoccupied chair and its sense of emptiness. Having left the chairs vacant, it is my intent to allow the viewer to place themselves in the chairs and absorb my perspective with room for their interpretation. Choosing white as my palette gives the chairs a ghostly appearance. The neutrality of this color facilitates an unbiased point of view, from which memories can be derived.

It is the uncertainty of processes in clay mirroring the uncertainty of experiences in life that push me to keep making. There are times when I feel I have lack of control in my life, but I find control when I create with clay. Clay is an honest material, and it will not take form without confidence and the artist's hands.