

Dylan J. Beck • Artist's Statement

My artwork explores the interaction of built space with the natural environment and the idea that manmade landscapes express a society's material and political priorities. Within this domain, my interests range from concepts of land use and automobile-centered planning to the psychological effects of living in the "non-places" of a hypermodern world. Hypermodernity has created places that have no relation to the natural environment in which they reside. These places include airports, shopping malls, and various housing developments, among others.

Many decisions regarding spatial relationships within our built environment depend on the flow of goods and consumers from place to place. Unmanaged growth, known as sprawl, has been the cause and/or effect of problems with transportation, the environment, and the economy. At the same time, this growth has created new housing and employment opportunities. I situate my work between criticism and veneration. Likewise, there is a dichotomy in my aesthetic attraction to images of built landscapes and my feelings toward the issues they illustrate.

I use several tactics to illustrate this dialectic. My sculptures are constructed with materials that are found in the retail and domestic setting along with those used in home construction. Through the examination of the world around me, aerial photography and satellite imagery I select ubiquitous forms and imagery. I then use the same spatial relationships that are inherent in our built environment to create sculptural installations.