

Fecund Series I Statement

Beauty • Power • Danger • Cruelty. Our instincts/emotions bind us to our primeval past while technology separates us from the more “disdainful” aspects of the natural world. Still, products of nature demand our respect and admiration. Nature has evolved ingenious methods of survival in the way porcupines grow quills, spiders weave webs and plants protect and spread their seed.

I manipulate and assemble objects I admire -- cicada shells and sweet gum fruit, porcupine quills and beeswax, puffer fish and horse chestnuts -- into new forms. Careful selection of materials and the laborious attachment methods relate to obsession, protection and unification. The objects I choose once offered protection. Recombined, they speak to the human desire for progress and the possibility of Frankensteinian horrors.

These vulnerable forms require shelter. Acting as both specimen case and incubator, funnels covered with materials ranging from leather and velvet to wire and wax allow their contents to be viewed but not touched. Viewers become participants in the work when they peer inside a piece and see their reflection.