

AQUARIUM GALLERY

ARTIST: Emily Schnellbacher

(Royal Oak, MI)

Tiny Universe

(Mixed Media)

February 18 – March 17, 2018

STATEMENT:

Most of my sculptures and installations begin with me pouring out a box of fabric and allowing similar or contrasting hues and textures to inspire an image, environment, or feeling. The imagery that I am most interested in depicting contains elements from the natural world and the human body. In the moments I wish achieve likeness, I spend a great deal of time researching the structure and essence of whatever it is I hope to portray. In that research I often discover serendipitous scientific or poetic parallels between humans and environment, which further influences the works' materialization.

Fabric as a media allows me room for play, meditation, and mental dexterity. Every module, from which larger pieces are composed of, is conceived through play and happenstance. In order to build large installations, it requires hours and hours of repetitive acts—running fabric through a machine to bind it, stuffing full, sewing closed, then hand-stitching those shapes together one by one. Fabric also requires a willingness to let go, recognize the material's limitations, and to determine how to work with and not against its nature.

I enjoy the work and do, despite the countless pin pricks, raw fingers, and sometimes pure frustration that every artist experiences. The greatest payoff for me is to display the work in a public venue where viewers from every age and walk of life can identify with the work, whether it be through imagery, material, or process. My hope is that by engaging viewers in this way, they develop a greater reverence for the natural world and desire to preserve it—not only for the sake of its beauty, but for human's dependence on its resources.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Schnellbacher holds a BFA from Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis, IN and an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA. She exhibits regularly in both group and solo shows; recent venues include: The Governors Island Art Fair (New York, NY), George Washington Carver Center (Baltimore, MA), PSG Gallery (Philadelphia, PA), and The Woodmere Art Museum (Philadelphia, PA). Schnellbacher is the recipient of several awards and honors, including: the Walter and Helen Mowrey Scholarship, the Louise E. Fulton Indianapolis Museum of Art Scholarship, was nominated for the Mildred Darby Menz Award, and was a Finalist in the Fleisher Art Memorial 36th Wind Challenge. She currently lives and works in Royal Oak, MI.

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