

S N Y D E R M A N - W O R K S G A L L E R I E S

Patricia Sannit Statement

The essential thesis of my work is the common thread that binds cultures and species across space and through time. My work is informed visually by geometries, patterns, and marks with which humans have been decorating themselves, their artifacts, architecture and textiles through history. Conceptually, I search for the balance between chaos and control; the tension between the impact of human history and natural forces; the space between instinct and governable impulses. Creation, destruction, transformation, this cycle is at the heart of my thinking; as human we act out our desire to improve, destroy, transform. I work with clay and other natural materials, often repurposed, because the transformation of materials like clay and wood and steel exhibits time, process and change, and forces a capitulation of total control.

I make art that examines cultures, artifacts and the passage of time. My work responds to those motifs and structures found through history that rebound into contemporary art and life. I refer to the history of objects and buildings, imagining the life cycle of an artifact; once admired, then a discard, then a discovery by an archaeologist, an object of study, then swooned over in a museum, or found lying on its side in a storage room, or in gallery, being grouped with other objects by a curator who is piecing together another complex story. I want my work to nudge the viewer to participate in making the work live in different contexts and orientations.

My work this past year has been exploring migration. I have been creating large installations with hundreds of objects. The pieces are modules; cylinders, discs, drums and domes, that can be moved and re-contextualized, even intervened with by passers-bys or the environment. I find this new direction in my work very exciting. By creating installations, I address my interests in both the transmission of culture and the changing perceptions of art through time.