

Odyssey of Forever Things

Sarah Elise Hall

June 10 - August 12, 2023

Excavation

Archaeologists are essentially traveling through time as they sift through layers of dirt and debris. As each layer is removed, traces of past civilizations are revealed. The hand crafted objects unearthed on dig sites are vestiges of a past detached from our contemporary present.

Each object, once removed from its original context, continues to move through time. As we are confronted with these pieces of the past, these artifacts bear witness to their individual journey from excavation to conservation. What artifacts will remain of this time of globalization?

In our current mass produced, throw away culture we leave behind endless amounts of plastic waste. It is altering our landscape and our seascapes. Objects that were once designed for longevity have been replaced by single use containers that end up in trash mountains or flow into our waterways. There is an estimated 5.2 trillion pieces of trash in our oceans alone. Forever plastics have become a disastrous legacy of our time, embedding themselves permanently into our environment.

Monument

Through the action of erosion Sarah Elise Hall creates fossilized traces of our consumer present. Found discarded plastics serve as vessels for mixed media sculptural forms. While continuing in the ancient tradition of sculpting with marble, Hall incorporates pigment to break and ultimately obliterate the integrity of the stone.

Combining gestures of abstract expressionism with shapes of minimalism, she is able to render banal, mass-produced industrial forms into the Monumental. Slabs and Stacks provide the framework for the transformative journey each found object undergoes.



A section of floor from Hall's studio is referenced in a large-scale collagraph print. The floor reveals the journey of this body of work, from start to finish, leaving visible traces, building layers of pigment, binder, footprints, gouges, and general wear creating a physical record of her creative process. The floor becomes the source material for the large-scale collagraph print that reproduces the scarred surface of the studio floor.

Odyssey

What Odyssey of Forever Things encourages us as viewers to do is travel around the space and think about materiality, repetition and our environment. Where the blue pigment utilized in this body of work evokes water like that of the Aegean, the eroded marble is suggestive of earthly layers. This interplay creates a dialogue between the aquatic and the geological, and invites us to lose ourselves into the blue abyss and visually wander through the nooks and crannies of these fossilized forms.

Artist Bio

Born in Toronto, Canada, Sarah Elise Hall is currently a Peterborough-based artist. Hall received a BFA from OCAD University in Toronto and an MFA from the New York Academy of Art in New York City. Her work has been included in national and international exhibitions as well as private and corporate collections. Selected solo and group exhibitions include shows with Christie Contemporary, Toronto, Gray Contemporary, Houston, Arishon + Murphy, NYC, ChaShaMa, NYC, Los Ojos, Brooklyn, NY, Janinebean Gallery, Berlin, and the Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto. Her list of residencies and awards include Artist-in-Residence at the Carriage House, Islip Art Museum, in Long Island New York ((with stipend), Artist-in-Residence at Urbanfuse, Berlin, a Research and Creation Grant (Canada Council for the Arts), a Mid-career Grant (Ontario Arts Council), and a Grant for Individual Artists from Electric City Cultural Council. Her work has been reviewed in *Hyperallergic* in NYC, *The National Post* in Toronto, the *Huffington Post* in NYC, the *Toronto Star*, and included in Michael Petry's book *Nature Morte: Contemporary Artists Reinvent the Still Life Tradition*, Pg 238, published by Thames and Hudson Press, NYC.

Sarah would like to acknowledge the generous funding support of the EC3 and Canada Council for the Arts

Artspace gratefully acknowledges funding from:

