

SUSANNAH MIRA

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is based on altering and re-contextualizing common objects and environments. Taking the form of sculptural installation, I rely on the union of recognizable forms in uncommon renderings, employing both available materials and humor to highlight different perspectives on themes like fabrication, resourcefulness, and development. By using ordinary materials, my work entertains dialogues between mass production and the art object as well as global and domestic economies, offering an at times uneasy commentary on the human capacity to create - as well as endanger - our surroundings.

For example, recent pieces began with commercial materials salvaged from a single abandoned textile industry storeroom in downtown El Paso, Texas. These surplus items interested me initially because of their provenance and significance to the region. They grew in importance as a metaphor for the different methods used by both individuals and corporations alike to plan for an unknowable future.

In addition to studio work, my practice is informed by large-scale collaborative undertakings. Examples include work with vernacular architecture and local energy production, environmental projects that are truly contemporary efforts to rethink patterns of everyday life through spatial, ecological, and community-oriented means.

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