

JESSICA DRENK | Artist Statement

My work is an inquiry into materiality: what makes up the objects that surround us as well as the composition of the natural world. I am interested in how parts combine to create a whole and the intricacies of shape and texture found in the world on every scale. In treating everyday objects as raw material to sculpt, I practice a form of conceptual alchemy: through physically manipulating these objects their meanings become transmuted. Each piece is a direct response to material—a subversion of the meanings associated with it, and a reference to the life cycle of objects through time.

The sculptures in the Implements series are created by gluing thousands of pencils together and then sanding the outside of each form. In doing so, each piece exhibits a contrast between man-made geometry on the inside, and an outside evocative of natural shapes and textures. Interior and exterior have been reversed: inside the sculpture you see the outside of each pencil, while the interior of the pencils is revealed on the exterior surface of the piece.