

Hannah Pierce

My work consists of surreal, narrative-driven sculptures that primarily portray bizarre characters and imagery from urban environments. Within my playful, architectural configurations, I utilize deceptive, illustrative qualities and exaggerative forms to distort the viewer's perspective and enhance the theatrical nature of these narrative works.

These uncanny structures are usually accompanied by references to smog, unknown fluids and other depictions of urban detritus. I tend to use visual metaphors that recognize our dependency upon man-made environments and our desperate attempts to conform to living in intense, industrialized areas. Within all my sculptures, the figures are visually separate from their surroundings in their illustrative, 2-dimensional format. This separation personifies an underlying tension and a sense of estrangement that everyone in our contemporary society can relate to. My unique approach to 3-dimensional storytelling reveals subtle undertones of historical influences, such as German expressionism, Indonesian shadow puppets and early 1900's animations utilizing paper cutouts.

In being most heavily influenced by Pop Surrealism, I sarcastically pair dismal scenes with pleasurable pops of color, playful perspectives, figure distortion and an abundance of childlike references. In my most recent works, there is an obvious focus on addictions and habits, with an emphasis on oral fixations. Although these are adult issues, I draw attention to childlike qualities when pertaining to concepts of excess, lack of self-control and escapism. Within these works, I can bring a sense of humor and absurdity to some of the darker, more challenging aspects of being human in our unstable, perpetually changing environments.