

Sutherlin Santo Artist Statement

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ARTISTS:

Paul Sutherlin Santo, b.1983
Garrett Sutherlin Santo, b.1987

Sutherlin Santo is a research-driven design workshop based in Los Angeles, California, operated by Garrett and Paul Sutherlin Santo, informed by their diverse backgrounds.

Sutherlin Santo's body of work has been dedicated to exploring the relationship between humans and nature by pairing emerging digital technologies with earth and plant-based materials. Merging techniques of the past with contemporary machines, Sutherlin Santo reexamines traditional and ancestral craft through a digital lens, projecting forward to a future where our technological and natural worlds are more closely aligned.

Using tools such as robotics, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence to mediate the human hand and subvert anthropocentric preconceptions, Sutherlin Santo's research-driven work seeks to anticipate a future where design's connection to nature and technology are symmetrical and technology is balanced with the human hand.

HOLLOW FORM

Hollow Form is a sculptural aggregation of clay components designed from digital scans of organic and geological samples. Through manual and digital manipulation, these clay forms fuse into a stone lattice column finished in layers of custom matte and metallic glaze. Large cuts slice vertically through two sides of the column, revealing a pattern along its edges and exposing its hollow interior.

Hollow Form represents an attempt to connect with the natural world by utilizing digital tools to engage, even co-create with nature. In this piece, highly detailed 3D scans of organic samples allowed for digital alteration and manipulation of their forms without removing them from their natural context. The result is a sculpture that is semi-digital and semi-geologic in character, a hybrid that exists in both the natural and built worlds.

Fundamentally, *Hollow Form* is about exploring an instinctive connection with the non-anthropocentric aspects of our world, allowing ourselves to search for meaning in vaguely organic and geological qualities. This piece is an exploration in communication with our primordial and contemporary selves, allowing us to connect with the inanimate, natural things with which we find ancestral belonging.