

Artist's Statement

Why do we believe what we believe? This simple but intriguing question has formed one of the key inquiries in much of my work for the past few years, and provides a rich source for my multiple bodies of work related to the mind. Exploring aspects of consciousness and connection through media ranging from stone to plastic, and from video to plaster to interactive installation, has helped surface what I term the visual language of belief or the "geology of spirit".

Often, I use the head as an obvious symbol for the mind. Years of studying African dance traditions of Cuba, Brazil and Haiti, taught me about the cultural and religious practices that these dances and rhythms embody, and religions with African roots hold a powerful reverence for the head. After a series of sculptures about the mind and the head, I initiated the drawing series called the "Not Heads: Just Connections" where the heads are voids – the drawings are of the connective energies among us.

Recently I've begun to invite more collaboration and interaction with my work. Playing with psychological and spiritual concepts, such as belief systems and divination tools, has become a way to welcome others to interact with my work and to participate actively in it.

The installed projections and the collaborations have evolved into work about connecting, about exchanging ideas and energy, and about listening to each other. An example is the installation "How to Get A Head", where almost 30 artists got a plaster head I had cast. I then integrated all of the different heads into an installation/gathering.

The projection piece, "NY-VT/VT-NY/The#7Train" used video of a New York City subway train's journey from Times Square to the end of the line in Flushing, Queens. Projected at dusk onto a wooden walkway in rural Vermont, the luminous, out-of-context video offered a connection point to gather and reflect on place, memory, journeys and experience.

"How far will we go to find meaning?" is the question at the heart of ORQ [The Oracle of Random Quotes]. Made up of three elements - readings, video, and drawings - the ORQ@LP Project will make an uncanny use of texts to explore belief and free association. Part serious, part playful answers can form by choosing random phrases. Using oneself as an Oracle, with the help of the Artist/Listener, questioners may reflect on meaning and circumstance.