

THE TRIBE

The Tribe serves as a sacred narrative of a time passed that I have chosen to birth anew. This installation serves as a bridge of communication from the past to the present, allowing it to appear in unity with hope. Each one of my pieces carries the love of thousands, those who came before us and those who will come after. Perhaps, the concept of a “group” with a shared experience on an endless journey. The pieces share a sense of unity and they benefit greatly from their commonalities. You can assume they have a common language, common history, common culture, common law, single social systems, self-sufficiency within their tribe, a shared purpose, shared experiences, shared values and shared interests. The idea of their shared common bonds is intended to bring peace and comfort to the observer.

loyalty they value, above all else

In western culture, it is not imperative that one belongs to a single tribe for survival. Tribal participation is no longer exclusionary. In fact, today it's almost expected that one belong to multiple tribes to form different connections. Tribes may include: political affiliations, religion, fitness, demographics, education, fraternity, family and more. While tribes have had many valuable attributes, it is also said that tribes have the ability to limit people's social worlds, impacting the information they receive, the attitudes they form, and the interactions they experience. This has the power to create strong divides among groups (i.e. tribes) that are different from their own (as we are seeing played out real time in today's U.S. politics).

human limbs

One of the other threads that kept weaving its way through this story involves human limbs. I found I kept wanting to communicate feelings through arms, as they can act as a doorway to the body and the self. The first piece I made in the collection is literally missing one of its limbs. It is a symbol of how I metaphorically felt with the loss I had just experienced. Arms are clever expanding devices that can make us bigger or smaller, allowing us to reach out without having to move the rest of our body. For example, when arms are crossed they may indicate anxiety, which may be driven by a lack of trust in the other person, internal discomfort or a sense of vulnerability. When arms are not crossed, they expose the torso and the person, increasing one's vulnerability. Uncrossed arms can also signify a sense of comfort that often accompanies a feeling of trust. It could imply a power position that dares the other person to attack whilst knowing that the other person dare not. When arms are held behind the back, they are hidden from view. It's possible that there is a hidden intent and one is concealing what could be a threatening signal. All of the sculptures are in poses that engage the viewer with a specific intent.

With this installation, I honor individuals coming together and I would suggest that everything we do has a sacred quality to it.

artist statement

For these particular pieces, I started working instinctively and let the work guide me. I began this series at a very painful time in my life. I had experienced a profound loss of the safest love I had ever known. A loss that I had not been prepared for. A loss I knew was inevitable, however, I was still dreading the final destination. The pain of my loss was working its way out of my body through my hands. The first piece I sculpted was simple and rudimentary. Weeks later, I was able to step back and listen to the internal dialogue that was driving this work forward. I became really interested in viewing how every object has a spirit and the spirit is awakened. It is never born and never dies. Each piece of work in the installation has multiple layers of a cement membrane, just like animals and humans have their own emotional and physical protective layers. The layers over the pieces also symbolize the depths of the human condition to include protection of one's spirit and soul.

