

Marc Zaref: Artist Statement

As multidisciplinary artist, I am known to some as a sculptor, others as a painter or designer. Drawing is the foundation of my processes, and is apparent in my work on paper through playful assemblages of forged and welded steel. My broad range of skills are paired with a comfort and knowledge of working with an extensive palette of methods and materials. This enables me to freely articulate my ideas and expressions in two and three dimensions.

Sculpture: Ensos

By shaping, forging and welding metal, Enso sculptures explore the traditional creation of the mark in an entirely different medium. Like ink and brush, fluid and often whimsical strokes and elements capture expression, fluidity and movement.

Sculpture: Planes and Lines

Observing at infinite approaches and lighting situations, planes and lines become undefined in three dimensional interpretations of Constructivist ideals.

Sculpture: Spherescapes

I compose found and fabricated objects and thematically create a reaction with a single or various spherical element(s).

Imaginary surreal landscapes and gatherings of characters rely on each other to evoke a story. While some elements create a visual tension defying gravity, visual comfort is soothed when the overall composition makes sense. I build and then subtract only the necessary elements to leave room for the viewer to "finish" the story.

Sculpture: Steel Drawings

Shaping steel rods by hand, bending jigs and heat, lines are formed to compose a gestural story. Most pieces begin by sketches in wire and mounted on wood blocks. While some remain as maquettes, others are translated into larger works.

Works on Paper: Tidepool Compositions

Ecosystems of chaos and survival, nourishment and death, darkness and light, monochrome and color, stillness interrupted by the turbulence of crashing waves. The vastness of the unknown lets us imagine and get lost in familiar shapes and colors, finding comfort in the solitude of observation.

My drawing studies and observations are recorded by the shores of New England's rocky coastline and then further developed in my studio. Lost in the depth of an ever changing world, drawing and explorations of abstraction led me to visualize the expanse of this natural world.

Mixed Media: Unbound Series

Mixed-media assemblages from deconstructed case-bound books (all destined for recycling). My process begins with a separation of book parts in a non-methodical way. By chance and discovery, through tearing, peeling and cutting, a palette of textures, colors and forms are generated.