

Hold In /Pour Forth at Boston Sculptors Gallery

February 24 – March 28, 2021

These recent sculptures revisit some of my long-standing themes of the body: our bodies in space, the space inside, and the body as a container. I continue to explore exterior surfaces that may belie interior realities. Handles suggest an implied tension and spouts become mouths providing release as well as intake. Evoking ancient and contemporary vessels, these mysterious forms have no discernable function. They occupy space while holding space.

As the work has evolved, it has accrued added meaning in light of the many upheavals we have experienced individually, nationally and globally. While my work is not meant to be anecdotal, current events do inform my studio practice, hence artwork titles such as: *Thirst*, *Steamed Up*, *Holding On*, *Slump* and *Roar*.

As you can imagine, working towards a show and building a body of work during this past year of the pandemic with unprecedented deaths, ongoing systemic racism, violent challenges to our presidential election and the U.S. Constitution, rampant unemployment, irreversible environmental damage and climate disruptions (just to name a few) has left me horrified, discouraged, sad, paralyzed and enraged all at once. I questioned my purpose in making art and had to re-examine my priorities. Artists in all disciplines share these doubts and concerns. "Is this what I should be doing, especially now?" and I ended up back where it all started for me. This is what is meaningful to me. It's difficult and pleasurable, serious and playful, while addressing core questions about my individual responsibility (response-ability) within my communities and the wider world. The answers are not static, but continuously revised.

These sculptures are my humble offering, created during the past two extraordinarily difficult years.

Laura Evans

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