



Dharma Strasser MacColl

Artist Statement

My practice embraces themes of human connection and our desire to seek meaning through patterns in nature. With a dedication to drawing and painting in three dimensions, I incorporate ceramics, paper, thread and gouache to create tactile works on paper and sculptural wall installations. Each piece subtly subverts: white porcelain is meticulously hand dyed with pigment to create a painter's palette of colorful clay bodies, paper is pieced and hand sewn like fabric, and tiny porcelain dot patterns on paper reveal a subtly sculptural relief. Each medium is interwoven and in service to creating a larger whole.

My materials based practice focuses on the slow and rhythmic accumulation and application of hand formed parts, resulting in work that is very precise while also presenting the tiny irregularities of the hand. Humans have historically drawn inspiration from nature's geometric patterns to both understand and represent natural phenomena. From the hexagonal cells of a honeycomb to the grid of a spider web, it's our human tendency to co-op these structures in order find meaning in the seemingly chaotic world.

Outside my Sausalito studio there are remnants of giant anchor chain used for WWII ship building. This inspired me to add a new narrative thread to this ubiquitous form. By imbuing the chain shape with gradating color and multiplicity, the links tell a story of interconnection and community. Each hand rolled and attached link is dependent on the next for it's physical structure, and when multiplied creates a larger community.

Even from a very young age I collected tiny objects and organized them, attempting to make sense of my awe and wonder in our natural world. It is this impetus, felt daily, that compels me to participate in a habitual building of objects that reveal themselves to be relational and also deeply rooted in our human desire to make visual sense of our every changing world.