

Shalya Marsh

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Artist Statement

My current work explores ideas of absence, presence, and connection through representations of knots and tangles. While knots can signify protection and strength, tangles allude to anxiety. I strive to elicit a visual exploration of form and structure and rely heavily on format as a means of conveying content. Initial inspections lead to discoveries as the layering creates opportunities to hide or reveal different aspect of the work.

Shadows and voids can indicate the presence of a form or its absence, and represent distance and longing. Multiple shadows present conflicting ideas about time and location. The shadow as an element that provides grounding information is displaced to the foreground where it occupies a space it is not intended to inhabit. Physical manifestations of cast shadows serve to give substance to both objects and their voids but also raise questions as to what is real and what is not.

Multiples and abstraction aid in reflecting or obfuscating what is seen, creating interactions that mimic our own inner and interpersonal relationships, interactions that are filled with tension and complexity. Formal devices such as color and surface serve to visually pull elements together or set them apart. Multiples and abstraction aid in reflecting or obfuscating what is seen. The pairing of vinyl and ceramic elements contrast permanence and impermanence. These materials fix the forms at a specific moment where the knot or tangle can no longer be tightened or untied.