Danielle Englesby

Artist Statement

My interest closely revolves around the state of my surrounding environment- more specifically the result of the collision of the organic landscape with the rigidity and harshness of man-made materials that coincide with the expansion of industrialism. These unnatural components such as metal and plastic give way to toxicity and waste- the most unsettling and intriguing side-effects of the modern condition. The accelerated rate at which ‘things’ are produced, consumed, and abandoned have created an imposing over-flow of debris; layers upon layers of the remains of materials that are resistant to deterioration. These objects hold the idea of perpetuation and permanence that both add to and starkly contrast with the natural cycle of decay in earthly matter.

My work explores this concept by combining eclectic experimental methodology with classical painting technique in order to embody a collapse of formal representation; portraying the aesthetic of degeneration and reconstruction in a way that is attractive and arresting- drawing attention to the process of erosion.

This series is a result of investigational research surrounding the interaction of various combinations of man-made and organic materials- keeping in mind the objective of translating the notion of the passage of time associated with ruination. Industrial paint, motor oil, sawdust, resin and marble were used to create a recording of the layers of marks that industrial materials leave behind on a given surface. Additionally, they capture the ways in which these materials react to one another in raw and handled conditions- breaking down form to its simplest state. These pieces reveal the ways in which synthetic materials react when exposed to the natural elements, while simultaneously acting as documentation of societal history.