

Michael Szabo: Artist Statement

Nature's process of object making has always fascinated me. In my own work I retain a similar type of honesty and simplicity of process—a process that is co-dependant on my materials. I utilize natural processes or elements reacting with each other in order to define my forms. I try to emulate nature's way of making things by maintaining a consistent process, controlled or chaotic, throughout a piece.

Often I choose my material before I have any idea of the form it will take. Just as the wind and waves carve and shape a rock over thousands of years, I create a record of an action. Gravity and balance are two very important tools of mine, and I let their forces and effects be shown in the material. I see the result as a collaboration between myself and the material, as well as the forces or elements that physically define or limit it. I am also interested in the relationships between materials with very different physical natures. In my recent work I have been using standardized industrial materials and processes, but trying to approach them with the innocence often found in nature as well as in the artist.

For some of my functional works I must utilize the design process, attempting to control natural elements such as water. But just as in nature, the accident plays a key role in my process, often leading me in directions I never could have discovered by following a design on paper. It is through this process of accident and exploration that I search for the organic root hidden in such industrial materials.