I make sculpture of materials with which I have an intimate visceral connection. Industrial felt, wood, felted wool sweaters, soil, paper towels, and used hospital towels are materials that I know, have manipulated and coaxed through my hands. They speak to the vulnerability of the human condition, carry traces of body memory through history of their former use, and create an absorptive silence.

Through an incremental means of building, I study repetition, mass and void, physicality and weight, compression and release. My work is informed by repetitious activity and simple gestures of the hand as in folding, stacking and cutting. Within these qualities, I find parallels in the physical and psychological states of the body, my environment and sensory knowledge. The focus of reduction and order makes reference to artistic precedents such as mono-ha and minimalism. These solids are inspired by elemental geometries as found in Froebel's gifts as well as German modernism.

In a recent residency in Berlin, my focus on the city led me to draw connections between the powerful sites of the Berlin Wall Memorial, the Chapel of Reconciliation, and the history and significance of trees and forests in Germany. In this urban context, I found the lushness of the lindens, from darkness to the sublime, profound in their sense of hope. The trees buffer, envelop, shelter, offer repose and sanctuary. The lindens are a looming protection and a timeless witness to the city's ghosts.

The immediacy of taking a photo and the stillness of the image contrasts with the slowness of the accumulative process of making these objects. I am fascinated by the tension between the physicality of these solids and my intuitive response to specific places.

Significant places, such as the Bauhaus in Dessau, my backyard on Glogauerstrasse, Sachsenhausen Memorial, and Unter den Linden, left impressions that continue to reverberate in my studio practice.

My site responsive objects, installations and drawings are often informed by the spatial conceptual and architectural conditions of a place. I am interested in the traces, the remains, the evidence of people on a place.

Marcie Miller Gross

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