

Artist Statement

The work explores the duplicitous nature of race and human behavior by juxtaposing ordinary domestic objects and machinery. The sculptures provide commentaries on the formation of my identity in a childhood rife with contradiction. As a child of a Chinese father and a Caucasian mother, living within a highly stratified family structure and living in the pluralistic society of Hawaii, there were boundaries that were clearly defined by a strict paternal order. These divergent principles are visually fused together in the artwork with the use of domestic Western appliances, Eastern symbolism and simple, repetitive movements that are suggestive of servitude.

These contradictory concepts are most dramatically represented by my use of the swastika icon, an ancient symbol used for a millennia - in my case, in Buddhism, where it symbolized auspiciousness and good fortune. This is counter to the swastika's current and negative connotation because of its co-option by Nazism, a hateful ideology that is largely based on the purity of race. It is my intention to draw parallels between growing up of mixed race and the demands established by the government to define who we are ethnically.