

LEAH HARTMAN FRANKEL

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work has evolved from being influenced by geometric and pure mathematical stimuli and I have begun to focus on what actually inspires geometric study and to emphasize natural phenomena. I use earth, water, iron, paper and other visceral materials. While working outdoors, I make objects such as earthcubes, water receptacles and other forms that can be eroded and reclaimed by the earth. In contrast, while working inside, I create delicate combinations of natural materials such as cast fiber, hair and eggshells, to create seemingly arbitrary structures, but structures that also clearly define their material.

By looking at nature in a more candid way, the human contribution to the natural world becomes more relevant. Materials from the earth are constantly being moved and reformed to create objects that are eventually returned to their source. My work deals with the manipulation of natural material into man-made forms and ideas. It focuses on the human mark on nature: what we leave behind, and what is overcome by natural phenomena. The objects are sometimes rigid and intrusive, like man's intervention with nature can be. However, the earth is able to overcome it. I choose to collaborate with the earth. I make studies which invite natural effects to take their course, and I observe this. Most importantly, I am interested in what will remain, and what the natural systems of the earth will destroy.