

"Iceworks" Ephemeral Art Series

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Iceworks represents a turning point in my art practice where installations of ice works act as a metaphor for the transient nature of the environment and of human existence. Based on the concurrent philosophies of early Zen and Greek theories that: "all is flux", the mercurial aspect of ice conveys the inherent beauty of the ephemeral. Its ability to transform, crystallize and abstract reveals ice as a shape shifter which appears impenetrable one moment and precariously fragile the next. This new work investigates the dichotomy between nature's capacity for stability and its capacity for flux, between order and chaos. Ice is imbued with this sense of duality, questioning whether such pairings ultimately exist in symbiosis or in contradiction.

My notion of environmental art is based on my experience of both rural and urban culture. Therefore, while my interventions are about nature and psycho-geography they are not limited to using only earth-based materials. My use of fabric in ice is a response my interests regarding the relationship of the body to the land. This reflects my current urban experience, where the land is reduced to an opportunity development and where the adorned body becomes the ultimate symbol for our beliefs and alliances. Encased in ice, the garments take on skeletal quality relating to the primal experience of the self.

The essence of this new work evokes an attachment to the land that is deeply rooted in my culture. The memories of my French Canadian heritage, which celebrated Carnavale on the lake adjacent to my house, are profoundly etched into my psyche. Today the traditional techniques for ice making have been usurped by commercial production and consequently there is of a lack of technical information on its non-commercial usages. Therefore, my art practice involves research and experimentation as well as creation. I have been tremendously inspired by the work of the artists and architects in the annual Snow Show, which began in Lapland in 2003 and which was recently in Turin, Italy. These exhibits produced by Lance Fung have given ice and snow a platform in the context of contemporary art on an international level and have helped authenticate this as a modern art form.