

MICHELLE BENOIT

STRATI DI LUCE

a cura di Monica Morotti
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Michelle Benoit's work layers transparent and opaque materials. Color combinations are symbolic. Memory is encoded in hue. Structure is often revealed as image through the redirection of light and its absence. The objects signify a personal, idealized geologic core sample, where time and sequence are rearranged and stratified in an object.

Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, recent exhibitions include Scope Art Fair, Basel Switzerland, Margaret Thatcher Projects in Chelsea, NYC, The Stephen McLaughlan Gallery Melbourne, AU, the Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI, Thomas Punzmann Contemporary, Frankfurt, DE, William Campbell Contemporary, Fort Worth TX, and Cordesa Fine Art, LA, CA.

Benoit was the recipient of the Iowa Arts Fellowship at the University of Iowa, the Merit Fellowship in Painting from Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Berkshire Taconic's A.R.T. Grant, as well as consecutive Special Talent Awards from Rhode Island College. Her work is in the collections of the the Swain School of Design now merged with University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, The University of Iowa Museum and Memorial Sloan Kettering's permanent collection, in addition to numerous private collections. She received a BFA from Rhode Island College, MA and MFA from the University of Iowa. While studying in Iowa, Benoit was strongly influenced during an internship at the State Office of the Archeologist.

Born in Bridgewater Massachusetts, she currently lives and works with her husband, an architect and numerous adopted pets of various species. Together they are restoring an 18th century farmhouse in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

Michelle Benoit è un'artista che lavora la luce.

I materiali che le appartengono sono il legno e la lucite, appunto. Il primo, un materiale morbido, plasmabile, facilmente piegabile alla volontà della forma, il secondo un materiale durissimo, complesso, che richiede un'estrema precisione nel trattarlo per non essere rovinato.

Michelle, attraverso un lungo e complesso procedimento di stratificazione, pittura e taglio, crea tra loro un legame indissolubile, li fonde, utilizzando come promessa il colore, che viene esaltato all'ennesima potenza dalle forme e dalla luce che si presta volontariamente a essere imprigionata nei suoi lavori per poi restituirsì nella sua massima espressione.

Lei è fautrice delle sue opere così come le sue opere sono manipolatrici della sua volontà. Non sa mai davvero che forma prenderanno i suoi lavori, fino alla fine, fino a che non sente che il materiale stesso ha raggiunto la sua deformazione naturale arrivando alla perfezione del suo stato. Crea un rapporto intimo con esso, ed è proprio in nome di questa intimità che lavora solo su piccole misure. Fino a ora la dimensione ridotta le ha permesso di non disperdere luce, energie, sensazioni. Le ha permesso di sentire l'opera tra le sue mani come un puro atto creativo; lei va al cuore del suo lavoro, ne estrae la centralità e la concretizza, regalando una serie di lavori perfettamente equilibrati e composti, che si dichiarano nella loro complessissima semplicità.

Ma le sue opere sono anche frutto di un connubio interiore tra presente e passato. La solidità e pesantezza dei materiali sono l'ancora del suo presente, mentre le sfumature dei colori sono il simbolo di eventi passati, di persone o luoghi conosciuti. L'artista sceglie di imprimerli nella sua memoria definitiva e sceglie di dar presenza al suo passato attraverso il colore e l'elevazione a stato di opera d'arte.

Nei suoi lavori, dunque, c'è un universo intero, fatto di progettazione, manipolazione, studio, anima, emozione.

Michelle Benoit is an artist who works the light.

The materials that belong to her are wood and lucite, in fact. The first, a soft, pliable material, easily foldable to the will of the form, the second a very hard, complex material, which requires extreme precision in treating it to avoid being damaged.

Michelle, through a long and complex process of stratification, painting and cutting, creates an indissoluble bond between them, she merges them, using color as a promise, which is exalted to the nth degree from the forms and light that lends itself willingly to being imprisoned in her works and then return in its highest expression.

She is a supporter of her works as her works are manipulative of her will.

She never really knows what form her works will take until the end, until she feels that the material itself has reached its natural deformation, coming to the perfection of its state.

She creates an intimate relationship with it, and it is precisely in the name of this intimacy that she works only on small measures. Until now, the reduced size has allowed it not to disperse light, energy, sensations. It allowed her to feel the work in her hands as a pure creative act; she goes at the heart of her work, she extracts the centrality and concretizes it, giving a series of perfectly balanced and composed works, which declare themselves in their very complex simplicity.

But her works are also the result of an inner union between present and past. Solidity and heaviness of the materials are the anchor of her present, while the shades of the colors are the symbol of past events, known people or places. The artist chooses to imprint them in her definitive memory and chooses to give presence to her past through color and elevation in the status of a work of art.

In her works, therefore, there is a whole universe, made of design, manipulation, study, soul, emotion.



Firefly field series - In green cm 17,14x17,80x8,90, 2018





Goldenrod and tinsel cm 17,78x17,14x10,16, 2018



Shift Sound cm 78,74x9x9, 2018



Saudade - White cm 33,65x25,4, 2018



Sonance Ark cm 19,36x16,51x7, 2018



Brick and Mortar cm 30,80x25,4, 2018



Stones and shrinking violets series - In gold cm 17,14x17,14x10,80, 2018



Segue Reach cm 49,21x14,28x7,62, 2018



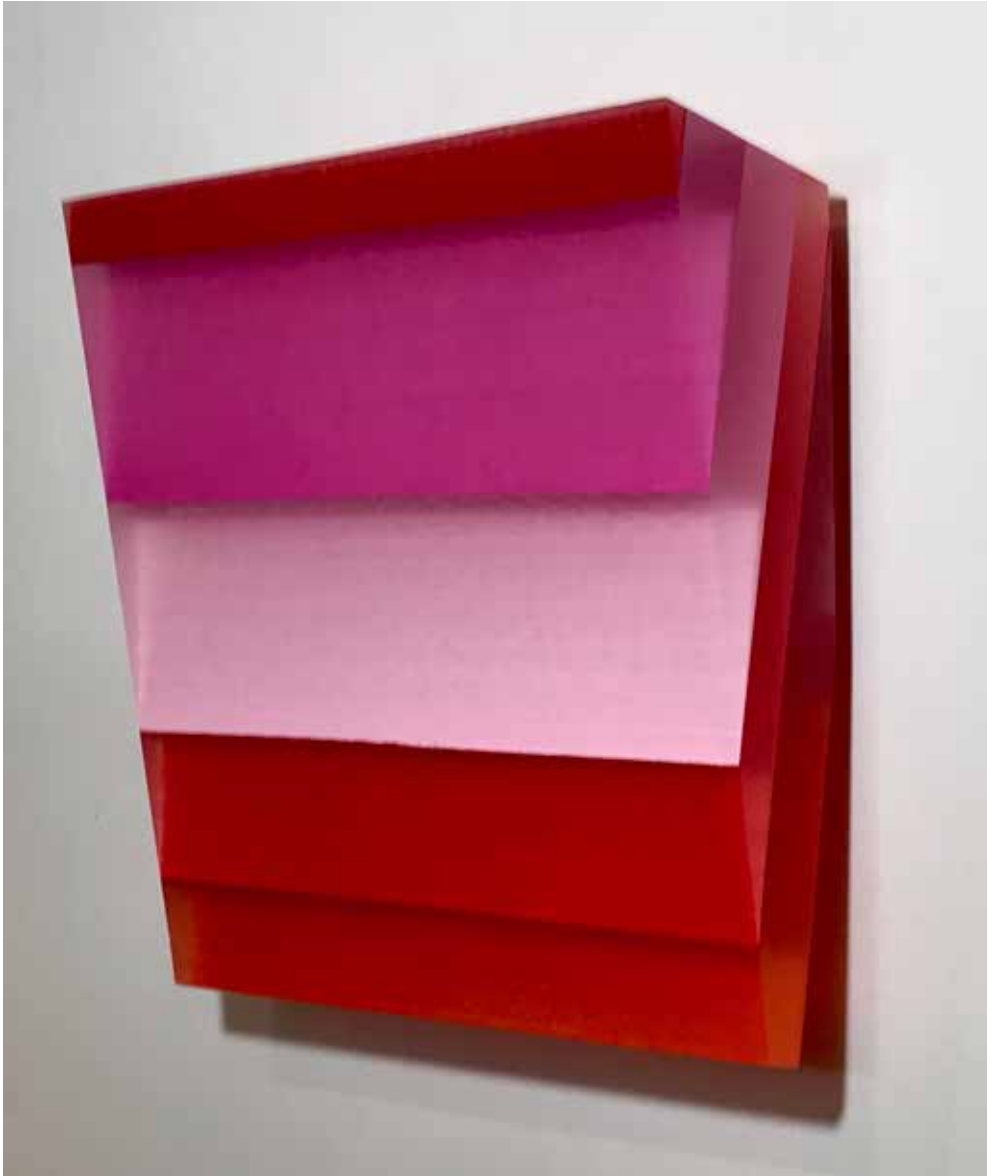
Laminae Series - Under faux velvet. Pink Paisley cm 33,33x47, 2018



Sky hood cm 17,10x18x8, 2018



Stones and shrinking violets series - Mist cm 17,14x17,14x10,16, 2018



Sooner Dusk cm 17,14x18,40x5,70, 2018



Crosscut Sunshine Series - In pink cm 33x14, 2018

