

*Matthew Harkleroad*

*Artist Statement:*

My work is about materials, shapes, edges, colors and textures. It is meant to be experienced and enjoyed in a very direct, visceral way. This is also how I make it. My intention is to reveal more than invent, to allow more than force, to feel more than think. I choose media, techniques and marks that feel honest and natural, building surfaces that appeal to my love of patina, accidents and the aesthetics of layered histories. My joy is in the act of responding-- What is needed here? What would make this image hum? Sometimes personal or narrative associations arise from this process. But usually the experience is more like smelling a fragrant rose, with a depth of experience that is valuable enough on its own, free of association. Either way is fine.