



Kay Dartt



Artist Statement

The artwork created by Kay Dartt fluctuates between functional sculpture, speculative design, and embodied hyperobject. The goal of these objects is to challenge our western philosophies of living that have created an imbalance between the natural, artificial, and virtual environments we occupy. By synthesizing biomorphic forms, consumer language, and parametric design processes, an aesthetic emerges that invites a critical perspective of our environment. At times, these objects can be humorous, whimsical, or enigmatic.

Biography

With a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Fine Art in Sculpture, Kay Dartt is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and activist. As Clinical Assistant Professor of Art at Shepherd University, she teaches sculpture courses, community outreach classes, and manages an interdisciplinary fabrication space called the FASTEnER Lab. The lab's mission is the exploration of arts, science, engineering, and technology. In 2020, Kay received the President's Faculty Excellence Award for managing the production of personal protective equipment for front-line workers at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, she received the Outstanding Faculty Award in Service for her contributions to the campus community. Outside of academia, she is the Co-Director of Keystone Iron Works, a non-profit focused on building community, teamwork, and mentorship for young students through the process of metal casting. At the 2021 National Conference for Contemporary Cast Iron Art and Practice, Kay received the Paige Wainwright Award, an honor given to those making education and metal casting practices more accessible for future generations. This honor was given for her part in the creation and fundraising for the Iron Futures Scholarship Fund. Kay's work has been displayed nationally and internationally at galleries and public art venues.