

## **Cold, Dark and Funny**

I am persistently moved to find beauty in the ragged edges of humanity. The intersection, or in some cases, collision between public and private lives, provides a place to peer through the cracks in the mask we put on for one another each day. Alone or in intimate groups, my sculptures describe the vulnerability and insecurity most of us feel beneath our perceived exteriors. I look at the ways in which we define ourselves for others, at the awkwardness found there, and at what happens when that pretense is stripped away. Despite attempts to clothe and ornament or build the insulating walls of societal perception, we are in essence naked in front of one another.

American culture encourages a kind of disconnect, where bodies are taken for granted, or used as vehicles to carry around our intellect. However, a serious diagnosis can bring to consciousness and place into stark contrast the usual attitudes toward the vessels we occupy. In these situations, many are asked to place the care of their bodies into the hands of others: doctors, nurses, family, friends, and caregivers. Patients and caregivers alike are forced to move beyond a sense of modesty and the boundaries we place between ourselves and others. This work, the result of daily observation and participation in this process, brings to light the isolating, humbling and often humorous nature of the loss of control that occurs within this set of conditions.

Using information derived both from personal experience and empathetic observation, I use gestural nuance to describe the figure, and the subtle intricacy of intimate relationships. I am interested in looking at the psychologically and emotionally charged spaces between people; the dynamics of human interaction and the cultures that develop as a result of forced shared time, whether in family groups, working relationships, or situations that cause strangers to come together. I am driven to explore the profound impact one person can have on another.