

Todd Campbell

Fisterra Studio

Artist's Statement

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In my work I deal with the connection between organic natural world and industrial materials, thinking about how objects are manufactured and exist in this postmodern age. In creating sculptural installations I begin by amassing thousands of pieces of metal that I have forged into a shape.

I investigate the idea of mass production in metalwork by taking one standard stock size of metal and transforming it in one or more steps of cutting or forging in a direct, repetitive action. By using fire and force, I allow the metal to return to the organic quality of the ore. I am careful not to overwork a single part, but utilize the malleability of the material.

I question the ideas of craft, production and conceptual artwork by creating simple forms that require an excess of hand labor and a critical eye to arrange. I love the idea of work and the process of converting energy into a shape.

One singular shape used repeatedly evolves into a system, similar to organic or biological patterns. The arrangements allude to natural forms like fungus, hair or plants. The patterns and configurations shift between the micro and macro scale.

Installed differently in each location, outdoors the work is subtle and mistaken for plant growths, though the mass and weight of the metal is deceptive. In architectural spaces, it moves out of corners like fungus. The accumulation of these shapes metamorphoses into something unique but familiar from the innate qualities of the single, hand made units.