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MFA Fine Arts 2018

Stalagmites, 2017

Medium: Cast Aluminum

Stalagmites imagines our present-day plasticity retained in fossilized casts, a future memory of the present seen as the past. Mimicking the slow accumulation of geologic materials over time, I used an updated, more toxic version of the ancient lost-wax casting process to envision present day, human-made materials becoming geologic forms of accumulated buildup. Petroleum-based materials such as styrofoam, polystyrene insulation, various plastics and disposable plastic-ware along with textiles, fabrics and garbage are envisioned in a stratified passing of time. In order to "fossilize" these Anthropocenic materials they were incinerated within the molds. The carbon-emitting implications of this process bothered me but undeniably mimics the toxic approach of capitalistic productivity that values profit over the integrity and sustainability of life on Earth. The end result of these works challenges our cultural short-sightedness by speculating on the actual lasting effects these seemingly disposable and fleeting materials may have. Cast as aluminized fossils, there is a chrome-like reflective polish to their layered chaos.



Lost-wax mold after kiln burnout.



Pouring molten metal into mold.