

Irys Schenker

Shnayderins, Blue houses, Little Monoliths

I am highly invested in process of labor and how obsesiveness and repetition, as well as form, color, and concept, compound meaning and affect the aura of an artwork. In my piece, "Shnayderins", (Yiddish for seamstresses or women who sea) thousands of feet of thread are wrapped around industrial spools. While the piece is an homage to the sewing women of my family as well as to the late 19th century immigrant garment workers in America, recognition of the process of winding thread is integral to the creation of meaning in the work. Shape and color provide an additional layer for investigation. For, "Blue Houses", over one thousand tiny resin houses were molded from Monopoly game pieces. This repetition magnifies the impression of conformity and claustrophobia. At the same time, the varying shades of translucent blue produce a dialectic of beauty and intensity. The piece "Little Monoliths", was made from the shavings of over five hundred hand-sharpened crayons. The hermetic yet radiant quality of these small "buildings" is intensified by the containment of the tiny flecks of composite colors. While my work is grounded on personal and historical moments, the quality of labor is inseparable from the experience of the work and the creation of meaning. Understanding unfolds slowly with attention to detail and nuance.