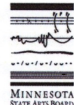




ARTIST STATEMENT

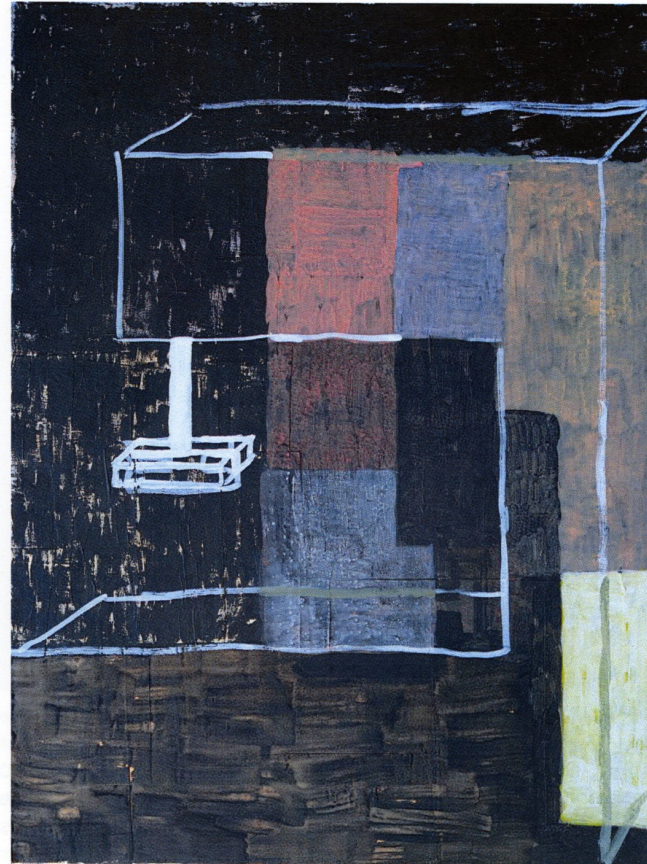
As a painter, I work to see as concretely as possible what my mind can think and imagine. Inspiration can come from anything and anywhere: things, thoughts, memories, sensations, etc. My collection of subjects for this group of paintings comes from direct conversations with my choir mates at St. Peter's in Northfield, MN. I asked my fellow singers questions about themselves. What is important to you? How do you spend your time? What are your prized possessions? Often, their answers yield specific objects—a sewing machine, a stocking cap, an airplane, a ring, etc. I paint to see a materialized view of each object distilled through my paints, tools, hands, brain, senses, heart, and gut. Blocky-shaped objects in disagreeable colors, along with my mistakes, edits, and dabs of unpolished doubt are unconcealed in the paintings.

Born and raised in Washburn, Iowa, Michon Weeks earned a BA in Art from Iowa State University and an MFA in Drawing and Painting from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Weeks is an Associate Professor of Practice in Art and Art History at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN where she teaches courses in drawing and painting.



This activity is made possible through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council in cooperation with a private foundation.

Michon Weeks is a fiscal year 2019 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature; and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

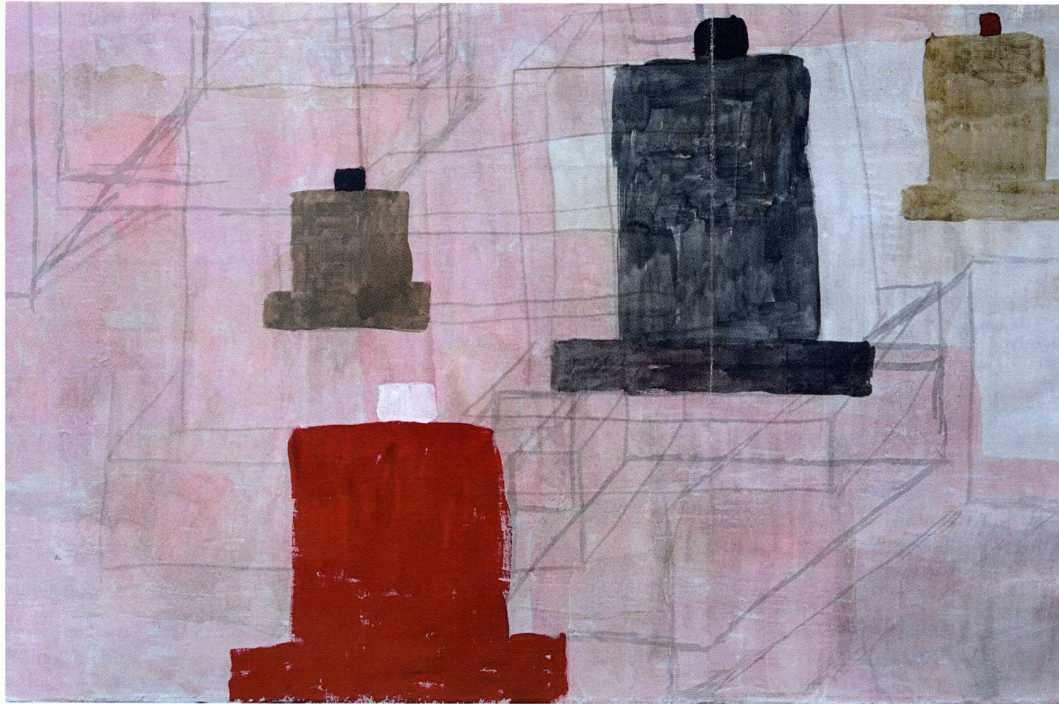


Airplane, Boombox, Car

Michon Weeks

SEPTEMBER 13 – OCTOBER 26 | 2019

Opening Reception September 13 | 6 - 8 pm



Inspired by a desire to become better acquainted with her choir mates at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minnesota, Michon Weeks invited each choir member into a one-on-one conversation. She asked questions like, "What is important to you? How do you spend your time? What are your prized possessions?" Their answers often included reflections about personal objects of significance. In Weeks' subsequent paintings and sculptures of those objects, there is a vibrant tension between recognition and abstraction. Hand-drawn grids enforce

an imperfect structure that leads to peculiar forms and intriguing distortions. Some objects hover within comprehension. Others — stretched, distorted, flattened, splayed — can be interpreted in multiple ways. Others still elude recognition altogether.

Of this body of work, Weeks says, "I work to see as concretely as possible what my mind can think and imagine." The inevitable distance between the knowable and unknowable expresses both the longings and limitations of human connection.

At a time when members of communities are too easily siloed into homogenous groups, efforts like Michon's are much-needed. Humans yearn to understand one another and to be deeply understood, but even in the most intimate relationships, there are worlds inside each one of us that can never be fully understood. In the gap that remains, clarity can give way to wonder, the everyday becomes deeply symbolic, and the ordinary becomes sacred.

By Jane Becker Nelson, Director of Flaten Art Museum, St. Olaf College

LIST OF WORKS

PAINTINGS

- 1 The Gate (M.W.) 12 x 16
- 2 The Sewing Machine (S.B.) 24 x 18
- 3 The Dog (J.D.) 16 x 22
- 4 The Knife (P.P.) 18 x 16
- 5 The Mother (C.H.) 24 x 18
- 6 The Golden Arches (B.B.) 12 x 16
- 7 The Football (S.H.) 12 x 16
- 8 The Log (R.C.) 20 x 24
- 9 The Squirrel (M.F.) 24 x 20
- 10 The Airplane (N.T.) 16 x 22
- 11 The Wheel (J.A.) 24 x 20
- 12 The Bicycle Helmet (D.W.) 18 x 24
- 13 The Steering Wheel (F.B.) 16 x 18
- 14 The Signet Ring (M.S.) 20 x 18
- 15 The Car (M.K.B.) 16 x 12
- 16 The Boombox (K.H.) 20 x 24
- 17 The Stocking Cap (D.B.) 18 x 20

SCULPTURES

- 18 The Squirrel (M.F.) 48 x 35 x 8
- 19 The Football (S.H.) 10 x 30 x 4
- 20 The Car (M.K.B.) 5 x 19 x 4
- 21 The Dog (J.D.) 32 x 46 x 8

*Artworks available for purchase
Inquire at front desk*

Special thanks to my choir mates at St. Peter's Lutheran in Northfield for sharing their stories with me—Julia Daly, Kris Hayes, Diane Boyum, Claire Hill, Faith Bergemann, Claire Hill, Sandy Bremer, Marilyn Finneseth, Bob Baker, Steve Hill, Mark Shaw, Pete Pedersen, Jim Anderson, Neale Thompson, David Weeks, Mary Kay Bougie, Richard Collman.