

MAKING

is

CONNECTING

FLOOR SMIT

WHY I MAKE

It all starts with my affinity for 'the visual'. I make because I have a natural interest in images, design, shape, colour, composition, light, etc. It is somehow engrained in my system. To others these things may seem trivial, but I can really get excited about them. Out of this excitement comes the urge to create. To make something myself. Fulfilling this urge brings a deep satisfaction.

The process of making is rewarding. I love how making is closely connected to thinking and feeling. When my head, heart and hands work together, I am fully engaged in what I am making.

Intuition plays an important role in my process: I start working with an image or idea I have in my mind, or an abstract feeling. I start putting it on paper and just seeing where it goes. Letting it develop as I go along. I rely on my intuition to guide me. This means to keep on working at something until it feels right. This gut feeling is something so primitive, so natural. We as humans for the most part no longer rely on intuition. But it's mystical air intrigues me and making allows me to connect to it.

And at the end I have something to show for it. It could be small or big. But I have something tangible that I can look at and be proud of. My own mind imagined this. My own hands created this. I feel like I am good at something. This sense of purpose brings forth joy, fulfillment and a sensation of being alive.

I MAKE TO EXPRESS MYSELF

In a way, everything I make is a self-portrait. A visual diary. Through my work I can be vulnerable. I make to get out what I feel inside. It allows me to take a step back and reflect upon how or what I am feeling. In that way drawing can be a way to get a better understanding of myself.

I aim to create images that are sensitive, intimate, honest and symbolic. Expressing what I cannot, or am afraid to put into words.

Vulnerability is commonly seen as a synonym to weakness and fragility. Therefore emotions and desires are often hidden or disguised. But I believe vulnerability actually shows courage. Because it is consciously choosing not to hide. It is taking a risk, exposure, uncertainty. To let yourself truly be seen. Vulnerability is doing something with an honest and open heart.

Being a maker, an artist, can give you the freedom to make work that is vulnerable. Letting your heart and soul shine through your work.

I MAKE TO CONNECT

We connect by exposing ourselves. When someone is being vulnerable, we can't help but feel connected to them. We recognize their struggle or pain or whatever, because we have felt that or a similar way ourself at some point. So this is where it goes from the (deeply) personal to the universal. We often feel like we are alone in our emotions, when in fact a lot of people have felt the same way. And it can be very comforting to recognize that. I want to offer people that recognition through my work. I think image is quite an ideal medium for this because it has something non-specific, in the sense that everyone can interpret it in their own way. The meaning isn't as concrete or set in stone as text might be.

I MAKE TO EVOLVE

No matter what I make, there is always something I can improve. This perfectionism means I am always eager and driven to learn and evolve. To become better than I was before. Within the practice of making I gain new ideas, lessons and a tacit knowledge. No one can take these things from me.

Vulnerability is the birthplace of creativity, innovation and change. Because vulnerability is to be okay with uncertainty, with not being able to have full control. To try something even though it might not work out. Whatever you make may turn out completely different than you expected. This is when you get new insights, and innovative ideas are born. Wouldn't the world be boring if we could predict and control the outcome every little thing?

I MAKE TO BE FREE

I make because it allows me to be creative and imaginative, to think and feel a bit like a child. Not yet held back by a knowledge of what is logical, practical or possible. When I draw, anything is possible. I can let my imagination run free. Working without this need for things to be calculated in advance or to make sense is so playful. Like a child, I will be surprised and excited, and proud of what I discover. I love how something from my mind can take physical form. This freedom is very valuable to me.

I MAKE TO SHARE

Making and sharing go hand in hand. I want others to see what I have made. It is the payoff, the cherry on top. Getting any kind of positive reaction to my work fuels my motivation, and lifts my mood. But I also share to receive constructive criticism, which I'll listen to carefully, and take with me to learn from in the future. Sharing is how the circle is completed, so I can do it all over again.

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