

Coagula

The Art of Conceptual Sensualist Debbie Korb

By Mat Gleason May 2020



Be it human, animal, vegetable or mineral, Debbie Korb breathes life into her subjects as a sort of art goddess creating existence itself. In an art world where referring to the craft of an object can be seen as pejorative, Korb's work revels in its own triumph of the craftsman behind it all. Little art these days honors its creator as thoroughly as Korb's studio output.

For all of its narrative qualities, the sculpture of Debbie Korb carries with it an overriding commitment to sensuality. These rugged, skin-obsessed objects exude the urge to be touched as much or more as they beg to tell a story. Viewers can easily become entranced by the physical presence of the objects themselves and lose their way before the plot completely unfolds, much like life itself. In this regard they are more realistic than the hyper realism they approximate.

There is at the heart of Korb's art a lust for and celebration of all things contained in the flesh. Beyond that, the artist imbues her work with a frenzied energy that proudly bears evidence of its own

construction. What anything here lacks in polish it more than makes up for in an emotional truth. The conceptual and the sensual are both privileged. Is art about thinking or about feeling? Korbels sculpture has the emotional resonance in its very presence but delivers a narrative layer to activate our gray matter too.

Every Debbie Korbels sculpture carries with it a distinct personality, fully-formed, pulling us in as the work weaves a tale in our imagination. Her people contain multitudes - of human foibles, passions and triumphs that we all carry. The artist taps into the universal connection of what it means to be human with an inspiring consistency. In an era where so many artists work to make objects with no connection to daily life, Korbels immerses the viewer in relatable scenarios amidst the mastery of her materials.

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