

MICHAEL CLOUD HIRSCHFELD

Michael Cloud Hirschfeld is an artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Language, especially poetry, has been the focus of much of his two and three-dimensional work. In his practice the processes of verbal communication are explored as an encompassing metaphor for the individual experience. Through this specific existential concern additional themes of mortality and the sacred are explored. Michael Cloud Hirschfeld received a B.A. in English from Goddard College and an M.F.A. from the Massachusetts College of Art. He has exhibited at the Jewish Museum in New York in the group show Reinventing Ritual and in the show Talk to Me at the Museum of Modern Art.

Being born into a family of writers ensured the written and spoken word would dominate my life. Often the words and narratives superseded any objective reality. I discovered poetry and it became a lifelong refuge from trauma, dysfunction, and chaos. I also discovered words could be misinterpreted, disfigured from intent, and ultimately provided insufficient shelter through the storms of life. In my text sculptures, I embody the contradiction between forging a spiritual talisman of experience and the fraught, idiosyncratic reception of such a sentiment.

I have used the writing process as a metaphor for installation based works that mirror the subjective generation of perception. Tables, chairs, and writing instruments become figures in an emotional and psychological drama. Similarly, I have been using the form language of sports goals to symbolize a state many people in the world are experiencing more acutely than ever. A state in which the rules of the game we have been playing are changed and there may be no discernable game left to play. No one knows if this is a transitional or an end state but the mood is somber, tragicomic, and necessitates a reckoning with mortality.