

Present in Absence

As an artist I am motivated by an interest in the ways we construct meaning in our lives. By creating a gateway, a window or an opening to an expanse of space I reference the idea that life offers a matrix of opportunity and choice. I am particularly interested in the illusion of depth as it allows people the space to be self-reflective. In essence, I endeavour to create work that will not merely be viewed, but experienced.

Past works have been driven by the existential notion that 'we are nothing else but what we make of ourself'. More recently, I have been exploring what I see as the 'consequence of living' through the unspoken binary of this notion - coming to terms with the person we are not, and never will be. The things that we hide deep within but that have the potential to consume or trivialise our existence depending on the weight we grant them. These are the lost opportunities, the path we didn't take and the people we left behind, or those who left us.

It is the way we deal with this 'consequence of living' that helps determine the people we are and wish to be. Opportunity is all around us and more importantly inside us; the question is whether we can see it.

Presence and absence describe fundamental states of being. We are, in essence, the culmination of each and every decision we have ever made and hence we appear in our present state. Yet equal to this is the presence of absence.

Jason Sims, August 2011