Julia Bonavita

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Artist Statement

Paying attention to the world I live in is very important to me as an artist. Everything is intriguing and complex when one pays attention. I’m interested in placing a focus on things that are often overlooked.

My best ideas come when I focus on my surroundings through which simple anomalies like shadows or the way light is cast onto a building at a certain time of day can be really inspiring. Through actively looking, something will always strike my interest.

The mundane is an interesting subject matter to me because of the relationship it has with comfort and normalcy. I like to represent the comfort of the mundane in a skewed manner, so that it still reflects reality, but in a way that is strange and alienating. I enjoy the idea of making something mundane look and feel very different from how we are used to experiencing it, just like how hair, when off of your head, suddenly becomes repulsive.

My two sculptures; Velcro Ball with Hair and Gumball with Glove, are two ongoing works that I have been developing all year. The Velcro Ball is made from hair that accumulates every time I use my hair brush. As for the Gumball, I have been rolling it around the floor of my school and home picking up dirt and dust from those spaces, adding another layer of gum that I chewed each time. I want this work to bring attention to things we encounter daily, presenting them in a different context and therefore changing their meaning and interaction with us.