

### **Amy Mahnick Artist Statement: Aggregates**

This group of paintings represent the point where the meaning behind my props, and the paintings of them, begin to parallel each other; a discovery I realized in hindsight. For years, I have made paintings of props that I transformed out of cast off plastics and packaging materials. The symbolism of gathering those materials, which had been tossed out, overlooked and emptied, then reclaiming them for their beauty, reassembling different parts to form new wholes, and shining a light on them through observational painting, is at the heart of my practice.

Much like my props, the paintings represent a search for that place where disparate parts fit together, then an infusing of energy into those parts. I begin each painting illusionistically, because I want to record the presence of my subjects and their specific, albeit personal, meaning. But, further in, I have a desire to move from specificity and stability to something more animated and unknown. I do this by intentionally intervening in my set up, or by not trying to fix mistakes that arise. For instance, I might switch out one object for another, or paint under different light. Other times, if my dog's tail happens to knock something over, I find a way to work that into my composition. Either way, the result is a painting that's more rhythmic and alive, a surprise, but one which has grown from a carefully constructed foundation.