

Artist Statement

My study of art continues to be an ongoing inquiry, not only about the purpose of its existence, but also of the indivisible link between representation and falsehood. From the moment I embraced the camera as a tool of artmaking, I have continued to consider notions of responsibility and the unique deceptive quality of photographic imagery. Primarily through observation, I have been investigating this framework of Postmodern ideology for many years.

However, it is undeniable that the observed is a decision, serving my ideology, personal history and agendas—my choices, my vision. The act of observation has motivated me to consider more deeply the way in which contemporary society constructs realities to give some sense of certainty. Primarily my focus has shifted to observations into the way culture constructs these notions of reality through images, which have extraordinary power to determine our demands on the external world.

It has become my belief that a transfusion of information that bridges the gap between imaginations is possible when there is an understanding of the deceptive nature of photographic representation. I choose to describe my identity primarily through toys, games, and puzzles. This is a personal manner in which I make sense of the world. These emerging works are observations through my own sense of reality.

Matthew Snead