

Richard Ward

Hetconnect Studio LLC

Artist Statement

Throughout my career as an artist, I've always maintained a "double standard" with whatever medium I chose to use. By this, I mean it was first and foremost important to approach the process with a high standard of craftsmanship and skill. I believe craftsmanship and skill are critical components to the manner in which one expresses his or herself as an artist. Furthermore, it brings spirit to what one does. My second standard is to attempt to be as original in my exploit of ideas and what I'm trying to express. I personally believe if I'm going to call myself an "artist", I owe a degree of innovation and originality to the viewer.

So I entitle this new series **Beauty Forms**. This body of work is focused on the grace of simple braids as the form twist and turns and sometimes locks together or passes through itself. Although the base material is concrete, I choose to embellish the surface with materials such as mosaic tiles, Dryvit and sometimes mirrors. These materials are a "throwback" to my earlier years as a construction worker and being the son of a Journeyman Tile Setter.

I hope you enjoy viewing them as much as I have enjoyed creating them.