MELISSA MARKS STATEMENT

Volitia, a sentient abstraction with a name and a sense of agency, begins with a declaration of freedom.

I have given the drawn mark superhero status and attributes - and yet, in my imagination, it remains a basic building block - with the power to elaborate fantasy. The line, the brushstroke, the painterly gesture, all maintain an instantly recognizable iconic power - and, at the same time, are inextricably tied to a belief in a vibrant interior life, to something essentially human.

Giving pace and rhythm to an unfolding narrative, Volitia draws herself as a new kind of hero. As metaphor, Volitia represents an open soul, ready to turn herself inside out in order to see the world. As an object, in the form of a drawing, painting or installation, she represents our body, concrete and attached, utterly dependent on her ability to be seen.

Like a rollercoaster caught inside an ice cube, each drawing becomes a performance about movement, play, character, turbulence and time. The serial ride, enacted again and again, reveals the emotional life of a changing archetype, a visual story without words.

Contour Drawing relies on a purposeful, attentive line to carve the figure out of an empty ground. Gesture Drawing empowers the artist to see through the figure, with a kind of x-ray vision, discerning an internal coil or movement mechanism ready to be drawn. Volitia is an attempt to contend with these two ways of seeing and drawing, to coax the empty space into breathing. The contour is relentlessly challenged, transgressed, undone and re-asserted. The gesture is different, in constant flux, tempting the viewer to look.