

Artist Statement: Charlie Morris

My current body of work involves the use of various media. Currently, I employ painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, and super8 films. I use these materials to explore mass media and technology, with civilian, mass media, and military applications.

My sculptures and installations are made as a facsimile of the object being depicted. The sculptures are pared down versions or simulations of the actual. I do this in order to have the viewer contemplate the 'absence' of the object being depicted. This distance from actuality is enhanced by monochromatic color surface treatment and reduction of detail, which heighten the sense of separation from our daily lives. This abstracted 'distance' allows me to address issues such as: new and antiquated media technology, the making of biological and pharmaceutical products and poisons, political/military war planning, and mass media's ability to 'distance' us safely from actual reality.

Currently in the studio I have amassed a large amount of research material collected during two international art residencies I attended this past summer in Spain. I have collected photographic and video documentation as well as drawings and writings during my travels. An *'Artist Foundation of San Antonio'* grant will allow me the financial resources to realize several cast sculptures, video installations, and large format photographs based on the western region of Catalonia during and after the French Invasion including the fascist occupation of Franco. Within the grant cycle year, I will share this newly created work with the public here in Texas and Spain.