

"...man is a worm and food for worms. This is the paradox: he is out of nature and hopelessly in it. He is dual, up in the stars and yet housed in a heart-pumping, breath gasping body that once belonged to a fish and still has the gill marks to prove it."

Ernest Becker, *The Denial of Death*

The awareness that we're living on the cusp of death, between the tangible and the transcendental is the dilemma of being human. The delicate and transient nature of existence permeates our experience. I sense my physical self and those around me as evolving, yet decaying beings. Like the transformative process associated with a cocoon, our bodies reflect a continually changing entity.

My figures are suspended in the final transformations of death, from inhabiting the space of a temporary terrestrial body to the afterlife possibility of existing in an unknown space. I investigate the possibility of a consciousness residing outside of the physical body supported by the idea that we navigate both physical and perceived layers of reality. These realities are composed of a perpetual navigation through physical layers of space and the residual memory. Each experience with these layers and frames of information forms a mental model or an internal cage that is the composition of self. Layered and weathered markings on the figures suggest the collected residue of experience and the etheric cages as the transformed and continued journey of self.

The "beings" in this exhibit are often in proximity to otherworldly thresholds, which are receptacles for collective memories. The memories emanating from the thresholds are processed and released back out into the world where they exist in the embodied physiological and psychological behavior of intelligent entities. Lastly, these portal-like spaces provide a conduit for mental projection whereby it is possible to exist in multiple spaces at one time.