

Bruce Polichar on Elizabeth Turk

Elizabeth Turk is a sculptor based in Southern California. A recipient of the MacArthur grant in 2010, she is currently working as a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow in Washington, D.C. In March 2012, she will be featured in a solo exhibition at Hirschl & Adler Modern Gallery in New York City.

"It's been said that what is essential is invisible to the eye. What is essential in Elizabeth Turk's unique sculptures is stunningly, but only partially, visible to the eye. Other values become 'visible' through a realization of what can't be seen, but can be discerned. Continuity is key to me. The continuity from classicism to contemporaneity. From Bernini, and the sense that marble, in the right hands, can be brought to life and be made to look like thrown liquid caught in flight. To contemporary art, as when Elizabeth says, "Minimalism is the black hole from which all of my work emerges." The exact meaning of "black hole" left unexplained—both a sense of something drawn out of blankness (a block of inert stone), but also of the enormous energy and forces being exchanged between marble, space and gravity (like a black hole in a galaxy). And continuity, as seen in Elizabeth's working process, as themes fulfilled in one body of work breed new ideas for succeeding series. I love the quiet passion in these sculptures—much of which floats "invisibly" between the solid, slender, bands of marble."

Bruce Polichar is an LA-based art collector. He has been collecting the work of Elizabeth Turk since 2004.



"COLLAR #11," 2006
MARBLE, 28" x 20" x 11"
PHOTO: JOSHUA NEFSKY
COURTESY HIRSCHL & ADLER MODERN, NEW YORK