



## **LEE HEEKIN | Artist Statement**

I consider myself a process artist, I love exploring different materials and working with my hands. I have a passionate nature and often want to do everything at once. Confining myself to the grid has allowed me to slow down enough to immerse myself in my work. I continue to explore the tension between accepting and defying boundaries in a variety of different mediums. The grid has been a constant in my work and is the structure in which my creativity comes to life. My work has evolved from photography where I explored the negative realms of confinement using the grid as representation for rigidity and control. Now I find my artmaking focused more on the attempts to suggest pushing against those confinements. I use the grid now as a structure to help make sense and order the chaos. I'd like to think we all enjoy certain parameters so we can push against them. I have removed most imagery from my frames and simplified my work into shape, color, and form and sometimes just the box itself. I use repetition and abundance to speak to the chaos in our world and in our minds. Ultimately, I am interested in how multiple parts of geometric abstractions and varying compositions of like things can combine to make a new rhythmic whole.

Like many of us, Covid quarantine forced me to turn inward and further explore and repurpose materials around me. I found myself compulsively cutting and tearing my old acrylic paintings (a practice of non-attachment) drawings, journals and mono-prints. When I didn't find the color I was looking for I would paint paper or turn to old books and magazines. Once again, I learned that certain limitations such as my strips allow my creativity to flow. I have to reiterate the words of Agnes Martin as they ring so true for me, "The grid is the staircase to the universal". Whatever state my reality is in somehow the grid speaks to it all. I always strive for balance in my life, and I have always been drawn to the order of a grid as it speaks to me about chaos and order. I am intrigued by how a simple form such as a box can accumulate to create something that is no longer a rigid form but an organic undulating form. My fragmented shapes turn into rhythmic patterns born from my compulsive cutting and reconstruction.