

STATEMENT OF PROCESS AND APPROACH

The 2018 Venice Biennale FreeSpace theme articulates a desire to benefit from “nature’s free gifts”. We used this as a starting point to uncover abundant resources, finding inspiration in discarded manufactured products- industrial detritus- and abandoned techniques and processes that comprise the neighborhoods of Cincinnati. The project demonstrates the simple philosophical position of Alchemy; transmuting base matter into gold. At the heart of this position is the notion of direct experimentation as a form of research, and the belief that transformation can happen through optimistic speculation- turning the banal and discarded into things of wonder and beauty. Through a careful and thoughtful (re)consideration of what is considered “left-over,” a new appreciation for embodied energies emerges- equipping us with material and a construction ethic that could inspire future constructions. Specifically, we present a position that is uniquely MidWestern and particularly Cincinnati- a construction that embodies material, place, and experience.