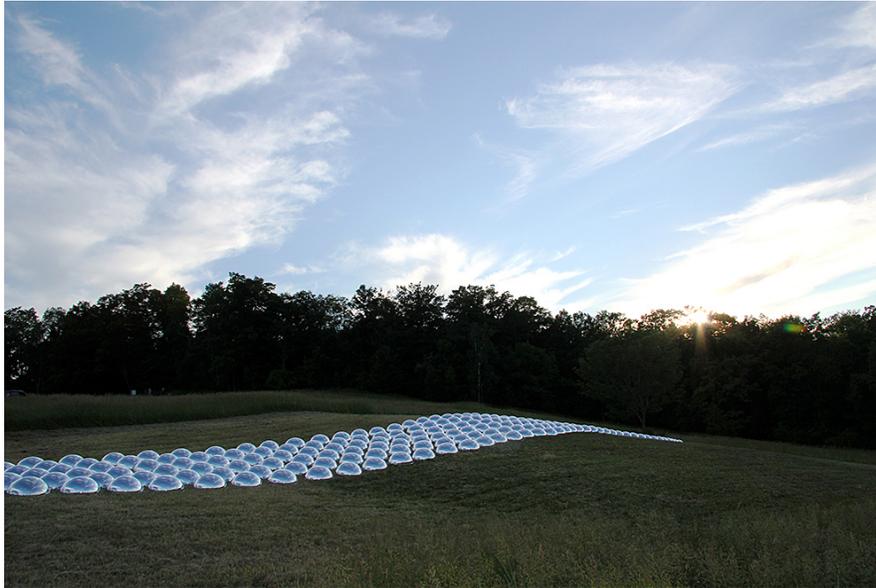


Marko Remec blurs the line between what exists outside and what resonates from within.



Marko Remec's Out to Pasture (Field Totem), recently installed at Salem Art Works, blurs the line between what exists outside and what resonates from within. It meanders through the topography of a steep, sharp hill facing the Green Mountains of Vermont. This installation has Romantic undertones. Out to Pasture (Field Totem) roots itself in the landscape, intrinsically accentuating each subtle pitch of undulating ground beneath it. It initiates a baseline dialogue with echoes that trace the history of art making, and its timeless foundation.

Reflecting on the work of Philip Guston, and looking further back to Giotto di Bondone's Pre-renaissance work, one sees another connection. Both of these artists are focused on the exploration of "figure ground" in which objects and key narratives are intrinsically placed in landscapes. The landscape becomes as important to, and intertwined with, the paramount aspects of this work's meaning. Marko Remec's sculpture celebrates this intent as well as the exploration of space, while subverting the formal arena by emboldening what is already there. The installation and landscape are symbiotic, empowered equally through confluence and interdependence.

The work is comprised of 306 multiples of mirrored, extruded acrylic, half spheres, installed in a sequential order, reminiscent of a bandolero of almost 3 foot diameter silver fish eggs. At first glance, the viewer is reminded of European

Minimalism and English mid-60's Pop Art because of the repetitive, artificial, mechanically produced, "hands off" nature.

And yet, throughout the day and seasons, the piece becomes porous, reflecting the surroundings like a parabolic camera obscura - dancing reflective images in real time. There are beautiful moments—fleeting parts of late summer's light or the early twilight—when each half sphere glows internally with an ephemeral luminosity of orange and red.

From Route 22, a highway that runs north/south a quarter mile away from the bottom of the hill, you can see Out to Pasture (Field Totem) from the road. The string of dotted half spheres is experienced first as other; yet, in that exact moment, it becomes the key and metric to the entire landscape. The viewer becomes instantly more aware of their surroundings, and of the vast scale and scope of the valley and region.

Anthony Cafritz
Executive Director of Salem Art Works
November 29, 2016

SALEM ART WORKS