Natasha Hovey
Artist Statement

As a sculptor working in ceramics I am driven to explore the body's internal systems at a microscopic level utilizing the concept of the multiple. Curiosity of human physiology motivates me to understand the unfamiliar genetic mappings within the human body. This work began by acquiring and translating personal medical records, and has extended to exploring contemporary questions that are currently being asked in the medical field.

Anatomical renderings and historical imagery allow the body to be translated from its complex layered structure to a more simplified abstracted diagrammatic form. Through this abstraction, I am able to create sculptural forms that explore the implications of a model and the complexity of its information. This way of working has led me to examine microscopic systems that make up and are maintained within a complex environment.

A major component in my research is the Special Collections at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. Researching and interacting with anatomical illustrations from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries has inspired me to approach the body as a mysterious form of creative inquiry. By approaching my practice in this manner, I am able to translate scientific information from its dense complex language to a more simplified abstracted form or installation.

These interpretations are constructed from multiple renderings of microscopic information that when arranged make up a larger more complex mass. The use of the multiple builds on the layer of content within the work, and allows the mind the freedom to explore the object's construction, its surface, and its potential to represent a highly complex system. Translations of dimension and scale from the micro to the macro also remove the body from its original context revealing an organized system that can be examined or questioned in three-dimensional space.