

Jason E. Butler Artist Statement

For 10 years I have been fascinated by and working with the subtle yet dramatic relationship between the straight line and curve. These lines are charged with qualities representative of my personal experience.

Straight; direct, prescribed, forced, standard, constrain, control, symmetry, dull, rigid, utility, sensible, practical, predictable, drab, dull, robot, banal, unbending, man-made, rational, shallow, secure, asphalt, hard etc.

Curve; lyrical, eccentric, random, easy, unique, poetic, spontaneous, surprise, freedom, imaginative, fresh, lively, exhilarating, flesh, gestural, loose, open, exciting, color, whimsy, natural, deep, individual, sweet, truth, genuine, dreams, elation, sublime, earth, heart, soft, graceful etc.

I employ straight lines in the angular, flat plane, geometric, man-made elements in my work. The curves take on textural, wandering, eccentric—natural connotations.

I work with steel because it is common and industrial. It is hard, man-made. I seek to transform portions of each piece toward a higher level of creative expression. This is a material accessible and understandable to the general public.

Placing my sculptures in public spaces is exciting to me; on campuses, plazas and in parks where they may be chanced upon by anyone—out in the open.

I am intrigued with graffiti and related street art trends. In a new vein of creative research I have been painting bright, gestural graffiti like marks on my sculptures. I am also designing and painting public murals.

