

## Robert Bilek

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### Artist Statement

The notion of objects existing in sets references a shared human instinct to categorize elements in our environment. We take note of the similarities and differences between objects/ideas; we apply labels to categorize the elements of our environment, to better understand it. This often happens with a degree of unawareness.

It is this initial response to our environment, this inclination to make something comfortable and recognizable in the unfamiliar, that initiated this body of work. The elements of each piece share the history of having once been a single object. They exist now in an altered state, but one that alludes to that shared history. Here, one object is in a sense validated by its partner – one provides the context for the other to exist.

I have found in this work a discourse of the inherent sense of apart-ness stemming from a multi-cultural background. This sense of belonging slightly to two cultures, but not wholly to one, finds its voice in the separated objects that comprise each piece. Through these works I invite the viewer to find their own sense of familiarity, but more importantly to realize that this process of comparison – this method of making the unfamiliar recognizable – defines their relationship to the work.