

Jason Willaford: Artist Statement

I have always loved the gesture or cadence with which animals move. In childhood, I was captivated with the way birds flew, or the arch of a primate's back and a dog's gait. As an artist, there was a great satisfaction in capturing the suggestions of that movement and nothing was as rewarding as getting it right. When I attended college I took every life drawing class that was offered, informing my early work as a figurative painter.

Over nearly the last decade, my work with repurposed vinyl has remained largely abstract. In this installation, however, I am taking my quilted sections (I refer to these sections as zooids because they make up larger significant colonies) and intentionally creating gestural figures that revisit my infatuation with movement. This site-specific installation captures forms that appear to exhibit a range of gestures and reactions, from surprise and celebration to retreat and "hands up don't shoot."