TYLER AIELLO

In college I read a commentary regarding "Monet's Garden" in which the writer speaks of man's tendency to often miss the minute beauty and detail in nature. This sentiment has been a constant source of intrigue, and reminds me to constantly search for inspiration in the mundane - from cracks in the pavement to the turning of the leaves. Have you ever watched sunlight shimmering on the waves? Have you ever been mesmerized by reflections dancing through a canopy of trees? Have you ever pondered the concentric ripples of raindrops coursing through and otherwise still pond? Have you looked through a microscope at tiny organisms or through a telescope at distant worlds? These are the details of nature I attempt to capture, mimic, even honor.

The beauty in nuance, the intrigue in detail, and the power of collective parts has driven the creation of my newest series, *Spheres*. The pieces are crafted of hand-forged steel, and are dependent upon process - a meticulous, repetitive process which mirrors the very commonplace phenomena in which I find inspiration. To start the pieces, I actually hand-built the necessary forge, tools and plaster molds. I then cut thousands of steel circles and embarked upon a rigorous process of forging, grinding, and welding the component parts together. In totality the multiple units form complex yet elegant wholes. Up close, the surface textures and patinas are subtle and delicate, inspired by the fragile forms of nature. For me the work speaks of the inherent duality between man and nature, and I try to reach a harmonious equilibrium between the two.