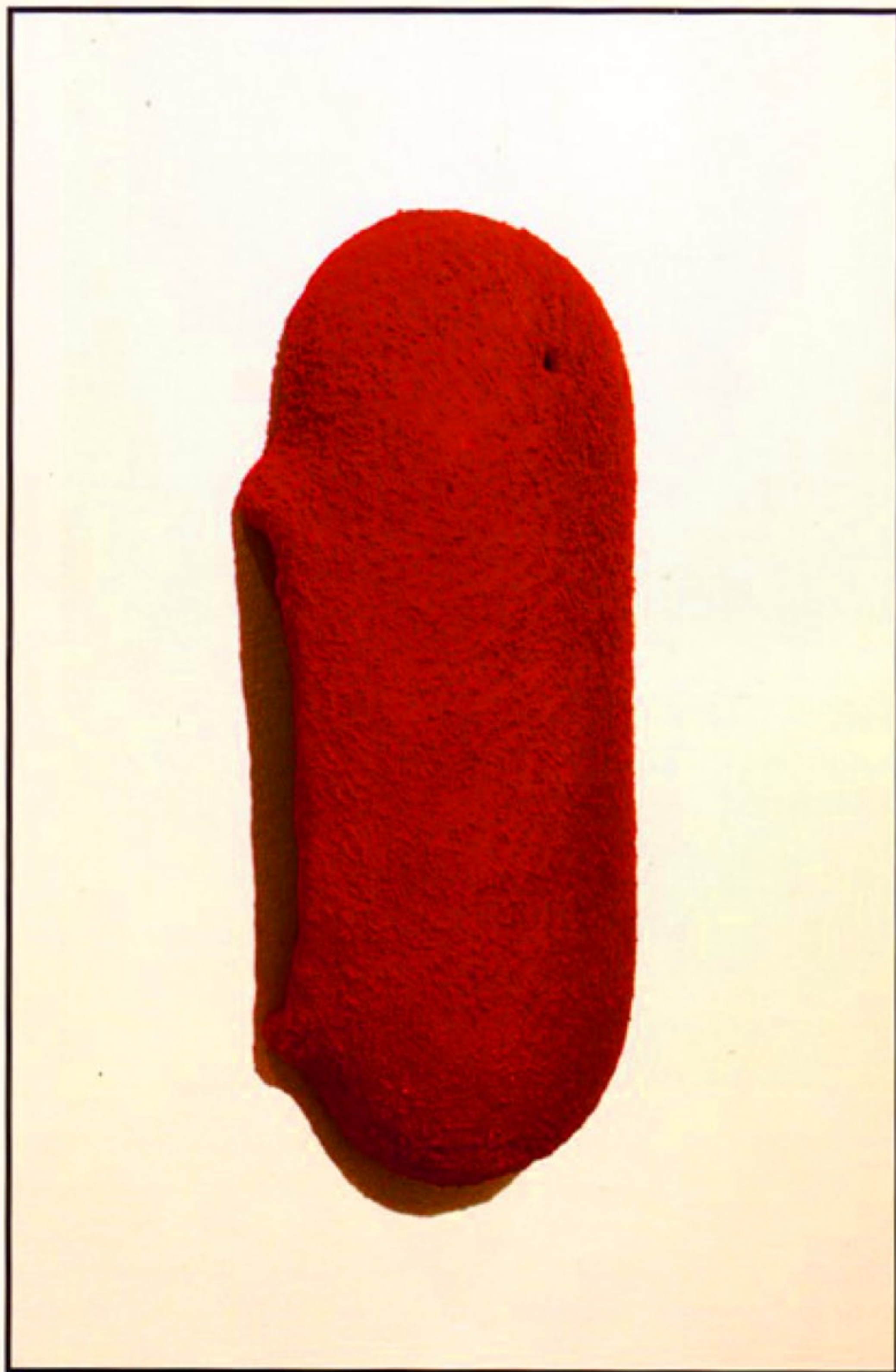


James Shrosbree



Mangal (peer). Ceramic, suede, flocking, paint, 12.5" x 5.25" x 3", 1999

Between what is known and what is not known is the wakeful presence of past and future. This abstract nature of reality which connects all of life is not really about doing or what has been done and becomes artifact, but what is—Is-ness. It plays the role of “life spark,” always unspent, continuously potent, before and after every moment. It is in the fullness of this open space that transformation, which is so vital to the play of imagination, takes place. Making art opens the door to this area. Opening this door is my reason for creating a work of art. Making this attempt means that I have been there first, consciously or unconsciously. This choice embodies my intent to express an experience. If something is perfect in the mind, then to bring it forth through the hand and the eye can extend that perfection into the reality of the visual world. The inside and the outside, however, do not truly exist as a duality and are not separate, but unified. It is out of this oneness that perfection arises. Perfection lies hidden between the artist and the work and between the work and the viewer. To invoke this value means giving up—surrendering control over what one may be too comfortable with—to reveal a deeper reality.



Comb (ocular), Ceramic, epoxy, paint, 7.25" x 2.25" x 5.25", 1999

Obviously, it is not realized exclusively through working. One comes to the process with what one is—with a certain capacity for experience. Being curious about the world through creative work involves, essentially, an investigation into the nature of the Self, into consciousness and the structure of what one is made of: energy, pattern, intelligence, and the connection with origin. Curiosity is a gift which is fulfilled through the ability to listen. Listening to the quietest messages focuses the attention at the moment a "thing" is manifested. For this timing is necessary. Timing is rhythm, and without rhythm we are lost. Utilizing time is dancing with time and not being eaten up by it. There is sheer joy in it. Resonating with this pulse of the Self is equal in degree to the charge of the object. This is ultimately based in awareness. What is brought to the making process is transformed into the emergence of a new reality. The greater the awareness, the more profound the reality—exposing something closer to the truth. Owning more of that truth through the process of creating is reason enough to continue.