

Artist Statement

Thinly blown glass bubbles define interior and exterior space in a curious way. A delicate glass membrane encapsulates its own space while the distinction between “inside” and “outside” is softened by a minimal material presence with great visual permeability.

This image of a glass bubble got me thinking about identity in terms of degrees of separation from one's environment. I wondered how close things might be able to get to each other before they merge—shedding their individuality in exchange for becoming part of new entity. For example, the way a pair of soap bubbles shares a single, ultra-thin membrane when connected. In this binary relationship the two bubbles are so close that if the tenuous film that separates them is broken they will merge, reforming into one larger bubble.

I'm intrigued by what might be the limit or state of maximum possible intimacy in which multiple elements could remain separate while continuing to benefit from a close common connection. This tension between separation and commonality has influenced a number of recent projects.

Michael Scheiner, 2016