



Renee Lotenero
La Casa da Signora Fendi e i Giardini #5, 2004
Handmade tiles, photographs, grape vines, Plexiglas, lacquer paint, steel, paper, found objects
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist

Renee Lotenero

Renee Lotenero uses elements of architectural design as a blueprint for sculptures that are seemingly suspended in an eternal state of flux. As if denying their finiteness, stretching out to be a part of an architectural space, they stand frozen in a state of uncertainty. Are they objects or installations? Are they in the process of birth and creation or in a downward spiral of death and decay? It is hard to determine, but this is where they are meant to exist.

Steel, wood, paper, cardboard, found objects, and paint are all used in Lotenero's work, but ceramic tiles and photographs are the two most important materials she employs. One is architectural in nature: hard, strong, physical, decorative, three-dimensional. The other is light and transient, a material of memory and recording, a two-dimensional window into a three-dimensional past. After seeing a photograph in a magazine of the Italian designer Elizabeth Fendi's tiled kitchen, Lotenero began obsessively making her own ceramic tiles replicating the designs of the Fendi kitchen as well as other designs she has encountered on her travels around the world. She often takes photographs of the processes involved in the making of her work and then weaves them into the sculptures themselves. Visually the photos mirror the architectural elements, softening their edges and allowing the eye to flow across and through the forms as one medium is transformed into the next. As her work is deinstalled and travels from studio to exhibition space to home, it inevitably changes as it is reconfigured to address its immediate site. There is a playful, haphazard, and spontaneous nature inherent in Lotenero's work, and this unexpectedness and transience are what interest her the most.

Renee Lotenero was born in 1977 in Cleveland. She received her BFA from Art Center College of Design and her MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2004 her work was included in exhibitions at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California; Hayworth Gallery, Los Angeles; and Via Farini, Milan.

JAMES ELAINE



Renee Lotenero
The Club, 2004
Cardboard, steel, tiles, photographs, grape vines, paper, wood, found objects, Plexiglas
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist

