

The profound impact of oppression and dehumanization of groups of people can be seen in countless institutions and circumstances around the world, from inner city classrooms and factories, to the World Wars of the past and present. In these instances humans are taught that their opinion and individuality are of no importance. The use of mechanization and systematization of people are undoubtedly present, oppressive and dehumanizing in their efforts to maximize output and efficiency to benefit the 'superior' tier. In the spring of 2011 I began to develop this idea into sculpture as geometrically-formed sheet metal people. These figures are hinged in 20-30 places and are easily manipulated by an outside force. The sculptures are slightly larger than life sized, some stretching out to about 7'x3'. The purpose of creating these sculptures is to call on an audience or viewer to contemplate the idea of humans in our society as mechanical and how within this mechanization the subsequent negation of individuality is dehumanizing. There is a great population that willingly succumbs to participating in life as a passive part of a whole, and there is a great population in the world that has no choice but to succumb to the same. My interest in this creative endeavor is to instigate contemplation surrounding this issue in a population that has a choice. With the addition of 15 figures this series of sculptures will assemble to form an installation that the viewer is able to walk through and interact with. In this interaction, the hope is that the viewer will be prompted to consider the rationale behind the creation of these sculptures. The way that the work is received and interpreted in the April 2012 exhibition will speak directly to whether or not the work is successful in achieving this level of consideration.