



Tread Lightly

Chakaia Booker uses rubber tires supported by stainless steel to craft her large-scale, weighty works. Booker must function as both artist and engineer, considering questions of balance and durability throughout the creative process.



Take Out, 2008

Take a closer look

Chakaia Booker (b. 1953) uses design software early in her process to develop her ideas before creating a small-scale model. This maquette guides the construction of the final steel armature. Finally, Booker uses a range of saws and drills to manipulate tires into loops, knots, and folds before bolting, screwing, and riveting them to the armature.

In her own words

“My titles come to me before the process of creation begins, during the process, as the shipper...is snatching it out of my hands, or when my process is finished. There are no rules.”

Something to talk about

Booker’s titles often relate to the artwork’s shape and may suggest a theme or narrative, not provide specific interpretations. Where one viewer might see *Take Out* as a bird’s-eye view of an open Chinese take-out box, another might identify an empty frame. What ideas does the title *Take Out* suggest to you?

Chakaia Booker, *Take Out*, 2008; Rubber tires and stainless steel, 130 x 88 x 36 inches; © Chakaia Booker, courtesy of Marlborough Gallery, New York; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

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