As a small child I recall being haunted by imagery from the Gulf War, specifically the footage captured in night vision format playing daily in the media. I remember struggling to understand why people were fleeing their homes. In my pursuit to gain a better understanding for the reasons behind these events, I ended up with more questions than answers. Due to continually changing perspectives portrayed by the media, then and now, I began to develop a new body of work, *Ambiguous Landscapes.* This body of work traces the historical and political narratives that transformed the regions of the Middle East and North Africa, known as MENA.

My research focuses on the impact of U.S. and European relations in the MENA region regarding complex issues related to territory, culture, and abundant wealth gained through the extraction of natural resources. I came to understand the extent of colonial greed and the consequences of U.S. and European actions by establishing new borders within the MENA region, fabricating governments, and leaders. The above actions mentioned were all attempts to gain a strategic stronghold over natural resources in the region with little to no regard for the people who call this land home.

The sculptures use a combination of specific materials to aide in representing the diversity of cultures inside the conflict zone. For example, the abstracted colored map describes the redistribution of tribal lands and in *Salah and Souad*, images of a man and women from the region provide the viewer with a visual understanding of whom these policies affect. I incorporate western building materials used for basic infrastructure in order exhibit how borders within the MENA region have been fabricated and manipulated by the west.

It is my goal to present the viewer with a visual representation of how those in power are able to transform the landscape both physically and politically. I strive to facilitate a conversation that leaves the viewer with a sense of empathy for the rich cultures of the MENA region.