

Thomas Swinkels on the 'Cup Sculptures'

One way to prove to yourself and others that you're an artist is to rent and work in an artist's studio.

I did not have one for most of the period between September 2023 and June 2025.

During this time, I was also buying and selling used designer clothing. These items would pile up in the living room, where I had put up a desk as a temporary place to make art. Lines between hobby, profession, the domestic, and the commercial began to blur. To stay in touch with the outside world, I created a daily routine of going out for a coffee and a snack.

I started working with the leftover cups and bags and turned them into little sculptures. I worked with scissors, a box cutter, and a stapler, using no other materials. Each sculpture either set or mirrored the mood of that day. Consumption became a state of being consumed. Over time, they accumulated into a series. I kept the receipts.