Artist Write-Up: Ron Mueck

Most of my life I’ve always heard that art is supposed to be subjective. In the past I always considered subjective to mean that the artwork itself was supposed to look uninterpretable. For instance, a painting with a single dot in the center or a pile of sticks as a form of self-expression. I never really felt like I understood these pieces of art so I avoided them. What I realize now is that within seemingly straight-forward pieces of art, subjectiveness can be present too. Because of this I really enjoy the work of Ron Mueck.

Ron Mueck was born in Melbourne, Australia to parents who were artists. His parents were his first introduction to sculpture and he learned many of his skills from them. Because of this he did not attend art school. Instead, Mueck eventually began working in television in Australia and then eventually in the U.S. Gradually Meuck returned back to sculpture, his first love from television. The piece that launched his career into the spotlight was called “Dead Dad”. It was a piece created after his father died that was steeped in hyperrealism. The majority of Mueck’s work from then on was made in a similar fashion. I enjoy Mueck’s work because although it is hyperrealistic the way the material is sculpted adds layers of complexity when trying to analyze it. From my perspective, Mueck’s work has a very introspective tint to it. Prompting me to think about things like family relationships, life, and death. But at the same time when looking at his work from a different angle it gives off a completely different image lending to its subjectiveness and duality.
Sources:

https://www.thebroad.org/art/ron-mueck
