

FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

VON COFFIN

Sconces

2022

Much of my work is about food and the aesthetics of food, what makes it desirable, what makes it fun, and how that plays out in social space like parties, ceremonies, and everyday life. Color plays a huge role in this, and I often use candy as source material for work. Many of the sconce colors are mixed to imitate Jelly Belly jellybeans, which come in a wide array of colors. The jelly center, outside shell, and splotches of color painted on top all vary from bean to bean. A Jelly Belly is already a translation of a food into flavor and imagery, and I am translating it further to an object. The forms these objects take have varying inspirations and histories from my life and work, like my background in food service and fabrication, interest in science fiction, and great admiration for the Jim Henson Studio.

For this new series, I built two new sconces from MDF in the usual manner, then created molds from them using silicone rubber. I then cast a two-part resin that cures ultra-bright white. The same glazing technique is used to produce the supersaturated and glowing surface, but because the base material begins white rather than the darker brown of MDF, it results in a slightly brighter piece.

Additionally, the glazing is a glossier acrylic than previous sconces.

Each sconce is painted with a basecoat first, an opaque/chalky tinted white. Sometimes this basecoat is a similar color to the topcoat, like a pink under red. Other times, the basecoat is a different color than the top, which results in a two-toned sconce. For example, #47 has a bluish base coat with a pink glaze.

Coffin 2022 Sconces