

Casey Schachner // Nashville, TN
Almost, marble, 2018

Almost places two viewers across from each other, in front of a block of marble that has been carved to reveal the negative space of hand grips. The viewers are able to slide their hands across and into the velvety surface of the polished marble, clutch the marble finger grips and grapple with the feeling of almost touching each other but not quite. Instead of soft, warm flesh they feel the chill of rigid stone. There is an interesting balance here of the piece not feeling complete without the viewer's literal insertion of their body into the stone—essentially a heretical act in defiance of traditional stone carving that is oft meant to be looked at but not touched. This piece has changed in meaning when reflecting on it during the COVID-19 crisis because human touch, to both each other and shared surfaces, has become a health concern. The moment of closeness that *Almost* provides, reminds us of the sensation of being united.



