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ARTIST STATEMENT: CHRIS FRANCIS

For this collection many of the shoes will focus upon features of the home such as furniture, interior design, architecture. Right angles are not typically used in shoe-making, the human foot is an organic form of complex curvature capable of advanced motion therefore making straight line architecture quite a difficult solution in allowing the human foot to function comfortably. The Piece is successful as a model and a prototype, a visible thought process, a concept for the imagination and stands as a possible question to the viewer "Why does every shoe need to be comfortable? Why does every shoe need to compare to those seen in shoe stores, can a shoe just exist as a concept and as a work of art alone, or does it always have to inherit the "known" definition of comfortable function often associated with the western idea of the shoe? The Rietveld shoe fails to become a shoe that would provide comfort and stability, but has the visual potential to become a functional piece for the imagination. It's own failure becomes its own success.

Rietveld was experimenting with simple ways to create structure using common materials without eliminating design or function. The shoe uses common materials, it is made from a found table and scraps from the workshop. The designed function was never wear ability for the piece, it's strictly a visual, architectural representation of an idea. The idea being "Right angles even if they are wrong." Wrong being in regards to the discipline of shoe making.

In regards to success and failure, I believe every piece I will choose to exhibit will have a mix of both. Usually the shoes I create that the outside world defines as successful look as though they are products, and they are only successful because they fulfil the definition of "the shoe" but In my eyes those shoes are my greatest failures. To my definition, my greatest successes are the ones like the Rietveld, ultimate failures to the traditions of shoe making in hopes of arriving at creativity and the freedom of expression without confines of definition.

I'm attempting to invent my own way of making.