

# Benjamin A. Jones

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## Statement

These are frustrating times. Don't get me wrong – being a young American has its benefits, yet I, like many, are struggling with discontent concerning the present state of life. The idea of escaping to a utopia is as sweet as ever; nonetheless, there is much to question about “now”. Mistrust of those in fiscal and political power, a frustration with what seems the “reality” of popular America along with other social, environmental, and politically driven concerns appear in my studio efforts. My sculptures are the language I use to explore and present these ideas.

My sculptures never follow a clear path from conception to fabrication. Instead it is more of an evolution, a sequence of questions and barriers that must be challenged. The resulting answer is a sweet reward, however, the process is what I find the most enjoyable and developmental. As such, the contemplations, assimilations, and investigations between the question and the answer is where I want my work to exist. I aim to produce work that both suggests something like an answer yet also continually promotes an exploration.

A significant component in this body of work is the ready-made. Not ready-made in the sense of being readily available, it is quite the contrary. I choose found, inimitable pieces to work in conjunction with fabricated forms to open a discussion. The ready-mades I have used in this body of work are in my possession or have come across my path as a result of their failure; discarded and terminated from their past existence. I am able to then build meaning and compose new and original forms by embracing the idea of reinvention and re-appropriation. I resurrect the components into a new existence as a part of a sculpture, an existence with a completely new agenda, bent on sparking a thought, revealing a suggestion, and/or provoking a question.