

Kyle J. Bauer

## Artist Statement | 2013

My current body of work is an exploration that combines a metaphorical reference to maritime navigation with sculptural forms that convey balance, tension, and control. These mixed media sculptures are conceived with an adherence to the formalist perspective of objects. Each sculpture exists as an honest form. The work, and my intention in making it, is evidence of the process of breaking down selective images or objects into what I understand to be their purest representational forms, such as squares, cylinders, pyramids, and rectangles. I allude to themes and the metaphor of a journey, which coupled alongside my continual quest for self-discovery, has been manifested into sculptures that aid the viewer as they navigate the gallery space.

I compose my sculptures by the means of arranging, stacking, and piling—trusting the instincts of building. In many cases, I let the objects dictate their own forms. I recognize that this methodology more closely correlates to the formalist qualities within my sculptures, allowing me the ability to investigate a broader expression of ideas. I derive pleasure from this act of construction and enjoy how this process provides multiple layers of meaning as well as investigation through the use of color, surface, pattern and form.

I am a formalist by nature; I look at everything for its shape, space, and volume. My visual library and language come from my history with restoration and preservation, particularly of houses and furniture. By using singular objects and their imagery in repetition, I reduce the known or recognizable images by means of texture manipulation. My attempt is to get the objects into the common denominator of form, asking the viewer to investigate and interact with what is before them.