

# **Benjamin Hunt**

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## **Biography**

**Ben** was born and raised in San Diego, California. He received both a Bachelors of Fine Art and a Masters of Fine Art in Spatial Art from San José State University in 2000 and 2008 respectively. While studying at SJSU, Ben worked as lead studio assistant to prominent Bay Area sculptors David Middlebrook and Randall Shiroma, as well as Graduate Technical Assistant to artist David Kimball Anderson. In 2008, Ben was invited to be the Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer in Sculpture at Idaho State University and was the recipient of the International Sculpture Centers award for Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture. Ben moved to Sacramento, CA in 2009. He participated as a resident in the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission “Emerging Public Artist Residency” program in 2011.

Most recently, Ben was awarded the Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and was a participating artist in “Broadway Augmented”, a virtual reality public art project produced by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, California State University, Sacramento and the Greater Broadway Partnership (the Business Association for the Broadway neighborhood in the project took place). At present, Ben is an Adjunct Lecturer in Sculpture at California State University, Sacramento and is an exhibition Preparator at the Crocker Art Museum. Ben resides in Sacramento.

## **Artist Statement**

I have had a long time interest in seemingly ordinary everyday objects such as collectible and utilitarian items. I am fascinated by how an object such as a photograph, a piece of furniture or old toys can become a marker of time to a collector. My current work has been focused on creating objects that imbue a sense of captured time and nostalgia through their design, aesthetics and contents. Appropriated photographic imagery and reproduced cast metal objects have been incorporated into my current body of work to emphasize nostalgia and memory, both diminished and reconstructed. I am intrigued by the fragile and seemingly deceptive nature of photographic memory and recollection. The manner in which I work has been a reflection of my observations of passing time, growth and nostalgia contained within the framework of blurred memory.

Clarity and simplicity have been the ultimate goals of my studio practice. My work is constructed by systematically layering materials and imagery upon themselves in order to create volume and texture. The manner in which I work has been a reflection of my observations of commercial production, consumer consumption and growth on both natural and industrial sense of the word. The majority of my work is fabricated out of recycled materials and reclaimed, reconstructed and appropriated imagery and cast metal objects.

## **Education**

**2008** MFA, Spatial Arts- Sculpture. San José State University.

**2000** BFA, Spatial Arts- Sculpture. San José State University.

## **Current Professional Experience**

### **2009- present Museum Preparator**

Crocker Art Museum. 216 O st. Sacramento CA. 95814

Duties and responsibilities under direction of curators include, but are not limited to:

- Preparation and painting of galleries and exhibition spaces.
- Pick up, movement, placement and installation of all art objects.
- Fabrication and alteration of museum furniture and mounts.
- Custodial maintenance of all artwork.

### **2011 - present Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer. California State University, Sacramento**

Art Department

Courses taught as instructor of record: **Art 70:** Form, Space and Vision, **Art 88:** Beginning Sculpture, **Art 127:** Collage and Assemblage.

## **Educational Experience**

### **2011 - present Adjunct Faculty, California State University, Sacramento**

Art Department

Courses taught as instructor of record: **Art 70:** Form, Space and Vision, **Art 88:** Beginning Sculpture, **Art 127:** Collage and Assemblage.

### **2008-09 Visiting Artist & Lecturer, Idaho State University.**

Department of Art and Pre-Architecture. Pocatello, ID.

Courses taught as instructor of record: Introduction to Sculpture, Intermediate Sculpture, Advanced Sculpture, Professional Practice & Display Seminar and Independent Studies (Undergraduate and graduate level.)

### **Fall 2007 Graduate Teaching Assistant**

San Jose State University School of Art & Design under Professor John McClusky, **Industrial Design 31.**

### **Spr. 2007 Graduate Teaching Assistant**

San Jose State University School of Art & Design under Associate Professor Shannon Wright  
**Art 13:** 3-D Concepts

## **Related Professional Experience**

### **2009-11 Art Fabrication & Special Metals Finishing**

The Art Foundry. 1021 R st. Sacramento CA. 95811

Skills and responsibilities:

- Complete knowledge of lost wax method of metal casting; both ceramic shell and standard investment.
- Welding: MIG, TIG and Oxy/Acetylene.
- All aspects of metal finishing: welding, chasing, polish and patina.
- Maintenance of facilities and equipment.
- Rigging and Installation

**2005-08 Graduate Assistant Technician, San José State University**

San José State University Sculpture Foundry

San José State University School of Art and Design, San José, CA.

Duties and responsibilities: Maintenance of facilities and equipment, assist on metal casting crews and assist students and faculty in classroom and studio.

**1997-2005**

**Lead Studio Assistant.**

David Middlebrook Studio. Montevino Road, Los Gatos, CA. (408) 354-2442.

Specializing in stone and bronze site-specific sculpture.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Work in all aspects of lost wax process of cast bronze sculpture.
- Weld and finish Bronze castings.
- Metal fabrication.
- Stone carving and finishing.
- Assist on-site installation.

**2003-2005**

**Lead Studio Assistant.**

Randall Shiroma Studio. Oakland Ca. (501) 632-5280

Specializing in stone and concrete sculpture.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Metal fabrication
- Stone carving and finishing
- Assist on-site installation.

**Exhibitions**

- 2016** **Left Coast Annual Juried Exhibition.** Sanchez Art Center. Pacifica CA.  
**Dual/Duel: Benjamin Hunt & Bryan Valenzuela.** Blue Line Arts. Roseville CA.  
**The People Next Door,** Art Arc Gallery. San Jose CA
- 2014** **A Vision for Broadway,** Robert Matsui Gallery in Sacramento City Hall.  
**Memory Pore,** Axis Gallery. Sacramento CA.
- 2012** **Linear & Non-Linear Possibilities,** Gallery 1075. West Sacramento CA.  
**Home Works,** Robert T. Matsui Gallery. Sacramento City Hall, Sacramento CA. (Solo)
- 2011** **Wood,** Tangent Gallery. Sacramento California
- 2010** **Big Name, Small Art.** Crocker Art Museum annual fine art benefit auction.
- 2009** **Benjamin Hunt: Current Work.** Gate City Fine Art Gallery. Pocatello ID. (Solo)  
**Idaho State University Department of Art & Pre-Architecture Faculty Show.**  
John B. Davis. Gallery. Pocatello, ID.

- 2008**      **Reclamation, Reconstructions and Other Grey Areas,**  
John B. Davis Gallery. Idaho State University. Pocatello ID. (Solo)
- Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award.**  
International Sculpture Center. Hamilton, N.J. Jurors: Mary Ceruti, director of the Sculpture Center Long Island City, New York; Dennis Oppenheim, Sculptor, New York; Robert Roesch, Chair of Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Crater Bay Area,** San Jose Institute for Contemporary Art. San José, CA.
- The Grey Area,** Gallery 3 San José. (Solo)  
State University, San José, CA.
- 100/100,** BackWater Art Gallery. San Jose, CA.
- Lift Off,** San Jose Institute for Contemporary Art, San José, CA.
- Big, Red and Shiny II,** Art Ark Gallery Commons, San José, CA.
- 2007**      **Fragments, Frameworks & Foundations,** (Solo). Pre-thesis  
exhibition, Gallery 3 San José State University, San José, CA.
- Intersections,** Art Ark Gallery Commons, San José, CA.
- RE-CRE-ART,** The Ol'Factory Café, Sand City, CA.
- Open Studios,** Art Ark Gallery Commons, San José, CA.
- Specter,** (solo) Gallery 5, San José State University, San José, CA.
- Caged,** (Solo) 12 & Taylor, San José, CA.
- Cross Contamination III,** Gallery 3, San José State University, San José, CA.
- 2006**      **Reclamation,** (Solo). Gallery 5, San José State University, San José, CA.
- Cross Contamination II,** Herbert Sanders, San José State  
University, San José, CA.
- Group Sculpture,** Linda Durnell Gallery, Los Gatos, CA.
- 2005**      **Current Work,** (Solo) Gallery 8 San José State University, San  
José, CA.
- Fresh Strokes.** Heritage Bank, San José, CA.
- 2001-03**    **Schlumberger Corporate invitational art exhibition,** San José.
- 2001**      **Tallerian Corporate invitational art exhibition,** Palo Alto, CA.
- 2000**      **Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition,** (Solo). Herbert Sanders Gallery,  
San José State University, San José, CA.
- Dirty Laundry. My Funny Valentine,** (solo) Black Gallery, San  
José State University, San José, CA
- Baggage Claim,** (Solo) White Gallery, San José State University, San José, CA.

- 1998 **B.C. '98: Sculpture by the Bronze Collective.** Santa Cruz Art Center Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1997 **New Works,** Santa Cruz Art League, Santa Cruz, California
- 1996 **Three Decades/ Three Dimensions,** Santa Cruz Art League, Santa Cruz, CA.

### Public Work

- 2014 **Broadway Augment.** Digital virtual sculpture. Commissioned by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.
- 2011 **Cable Spool Wheel and Pallet Bike Rack Sculptures.** R street corridor, Sacramento Ca.  
-12 Commissioning agency: Capitol Area Development Authority.
- 2007 **Camden Community Center – Time Capsules/Desk Chair Project** San José, CA.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2015 **Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists.** Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Recipient.
- 2011 **Sacramento Metropolitan Art Commission.** Emerging Public Artist Residency Recipient.
- 2008 **International Sculpture Center: Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award.**
- 2008 **Joan Mitchell Foundation 2008 MFA Grant Candidate.** San José State University nominee.
- 2006-08 **Elizabeth Hield Scholarship Grant in Spatial Arts.** San José State University.

### RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Project Manager:** “Lift Off 2008” San José State University MFA Exhibition and accompanying catalogue. San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art.

**SJSU Sculptors Guild:** Held the position as president for the 2005-2007 school years.

**Guest Lecturer:** Contra Costa Community College. Instructor: Cynthia Handel

**Guest Lecturer:** San José State University. 3-D concepts. Instructor: Mark Fox-Morgan

### ARTICLES and REVIEWS

- 2012 **Home Sweet Home. Local sculptor depicts the elusive quality of memory.** Debra Belt. Inside the City . July 2012. Pages 48-49 Inside Publications. 3104 O St. Sacramento, CA.

- 2008 **Fragments, Frameworks and Foundations.** Sally Sumida. **Lift Off 2008.** San José Sate University MFA Graduate Exhibition Catalogue. Copyright 2008 San José State University School of Art & Design with the Art History Association at SJSU.

**Artifacts of Family and Roots.** Erin Goodwin-Guerrero. **ArtShitft San Jose.** Cultural Tectonics and View from the Fault Line. [www.artshiftsanjose.com](http://www.artshiftsanjose.com)

**International Sculpture Center: 2008 Outsanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture.** Sculpture Magazine. October 2008. Pg. 58. Vol. 27 No. 8.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Glenn Keator & Alrie Middlebrook. **Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens.** A Phyllis Faber Book. University of California Press. Berkley, Los Angeles & London. © 2007. (pg. 219)