

TopSpin
Artists of Western New York and Beyond

Scott Bye: Method to My Madness

January 30 - May 22, 2011

Opening reception with artist talk, Sunday, January 30, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



scottbye

Learn to Lawn, 2009, tricycle, lawn mower, fan supports, 48 x 24 x 32 in.

Scott Bye's exhibition features an array of salvaged materials that have been ingeniously assembled into engaging structures. His assemblages capture elements of the human experience such as life, death, humor and devastation. Bye speaks to these issues in a remarkably humble and playful fashion through his sculpture. He makes abstract work from familiar, everyday materials that, when assembled, transcend their previous function or intention.

Bye has been inspired by numerous artists through his artistic journey. His educational background introduced him to sculptors such as Man Ray and Marcel Duchamp and the concepts of material diversity and the Ready-Made. Anish Kapoor, Wendy Ross, Richard Serra and Do Ho Suh are also worthy of mention when examining the artist's influences. He expands on his creative process stating, "I am equally inspired by family, friends, professors and everyday experiences from eating a cookie to taking a shower."

The artist is fascinated by the dramatic character of discarded objects. It is the "personality" of the object sitting on the side of the road, no longer valued for its intended purpose, which attracts him. "These objects, now free from the constrictions of a preconceived functionality, are capable of morphing into a new existence and offer new meanings or functions altogether," states Bye. His sculptures, though primarily made of found objects, are supplemented with materials such as cedar shingles, structural wood and a variety of assembly hardware. "I like to straddle the line between radiance in character and cleanliness in show," says Bye. By combining the two aesthetics in an unlikely composition, the piece tells a story of old while presenting a meaningful newborn energy.

The artist's ability to create these marvelous fusions of discarded objects allows him to portray the pressures of reality, the economy, politics, health and other serious issues without permitting his work to become overly dramatic or cynical—two qualities which the artist works to avoid. "I enjoy taking the viewer away from these pressures, and for a moment bringing them back to adolescent adventures of Legos, building treehouses or assembling go-carts. I build what I build because it looks like fun in my mind's eye, and if no one has built it before, then it is up to me and my imagination to manifest it."

Bye affirms that the method to his madness "is not merely a description of my personal sanity, or lack thereof, but rather a philosophical lens with which I reflect chaos and the battle for balance in the universe in the structures I build." His esthetic style functions as a counterweight to more formal artists, employing youthful imagination and light-hearted cleverness to his art. With wit and candor, he utilizes the found object in a way that generates a unique and personalized message through his sculptural manifestations.

Michael J. Beam,
Curator of Collections and Exhibitions



Rhino Bot, 2010, ceramic rhino, fur, wood basket, deer horns, ear muffs, sled, chair, wood, rope, fan base, lazy Susan, bag cart, helium tanks, wire screen, electric and gas conduit, bass clarinet horn, choke collar, microphone arm and carrot. 60 x 24 x 24 in.



Global Warming, 2008, commercial vacuum, umbrella, 12 x 24 x 48 in.



Gas Tractor, 2007, gas can, wheel chair wheels, steel table legs, 32 x 12 x 34 in.



Artists Statement

What deeply motivates me as an artist and drives my sense of purpose rests both in salvaged materials that I use, as well as the creative fabrication of unlikely structures that I produce from these found objects. Spontaneous thought is essential to the development of my work, as it is this that enables the idea, which lies in the unconscious mind to come to the surface.

When unrestricted by rigid predetermined goals, I create form, theme and context for my work. The work that results from this is a reflection of my personal experiences both past, present and sometimes future. These experiences are transported and transformed into a visual vocabulary, recognizable not only to me, but to the viewer. The viewer may be intrigued not only by the peculiarity and unfamiliarity of what they see, but may also be drawn in by the recognition of commonality that weaves itself throughout my work.



RV, 2008, cedar, grocery cart, office panels, wood, 36 x 36 x 72 in.



Salvation Armory, 2009, cedar, grocery cart, wood. 18 x 30 x 98 in.



Coffee Bomb, found object, steel, 2 x 2 x 5 ft.

Scott Bye

www.sculpturebyescott.com

Scott Bye is an artist based in Buffalo, NY. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture from SUNY Fredonia in 2006. Bye's work incorporates both found materials as well as the creative fabrication of unlikely structures that are produced from everyday objects. The viewer may be intrigued not only by the peculiarity and unfamiliarity of what they see, but may also be "drawn in" by the recognition of commonality that weaves itself throughout his work. His work can be found in galleries, homes, festivals and schools across New York State, the city of Buffalo and the greater Western New York region.

EDUCATION

2006 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Sculpture, SUNY Fredonia, NY

2004 Associate of Fine Arts, Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

**Indicates solo exhibition*

2009

Mixed Messages, Niagara County Community College Sanborn, NY*

Urban Roots Garden Sculpture, Buffalo, NY*

Resident Artist Exhibition, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

The Thinker, Greatbatch Technologies Group commission, Clarence, NY*

Members Exhibition, Big Orbit, Buffalo, NY

2008

Complex Compost, Art Space Gallery, Buffalo NY

Resident Artist Exhibition, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

Garden Walk, Little Summer Street, Buffalo, NY

Members Exhibiton, Hallwalls, Buffalo, NY

Honors House Alumni Art Gallery, Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY

Members Exhibiton, Big Orbit, Buffalo, NY

TRIMANIA 2008, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

2007

El Buen Amigo Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Hells Commissary, Cosmopolitan Model Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Groupenworks, Cosmopolitan Model Gallery, Buffalo, NY

One Piece Wonder Show, Cosmopolitan Model Gallery, Buffalo, NY

2006

Build, Expand, Achieve, Rockefeller Gallery of Arts, Fredonia, NY

Sly Fest, Sculpture Park, Fredonia, NY and North-fork Music Park, Warsaw, NY (annual through 2010)*

2005

The Love of Materials, Wayne Arts Community Art Center, Newark, NY*

Blind Babies Holiday Sculpture Park, Freedom Park, Heartland, NY (through 2008)*

2003

Wayne Insilaco Gallery, Finger Lakes Community College Art Gallery, Canandaigua, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-current

Construction Coordinator, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

2009

Contracted Art Handler/Installer, Anderson Gallery, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

2007

Screen Printer, Great Arrow Graphics, Buffalo NY

2006

ISC, International Sculpture Conference, Cincinnati, OH

2005

Turning Point, Nina Hole Project, SUNY Fredonia, NY

Construction & Facilitation, Japanese Step Wood Kiln, SUNY Fredonia, NY

2003

Professional Installations, Tellier Portrait Studios, Geneva, NY

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

All works are collection of the artist.

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Coffee Bomb, found object, steel, 2 x 2 x 5 ft.

TopSpin

Artists of the Buffalo/Niagara Region

The museum's Tops Gallery—dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists—presents the **TopSpin** series. **TopSpin** features a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message, and focuses mainly on new and emerging artists.

TopSpin is made possible through the generous Support of Tops Friendly Markets, LLC.



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Monday to Friday,
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