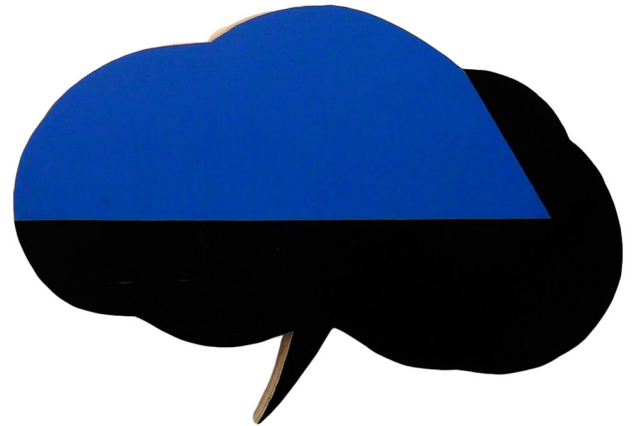
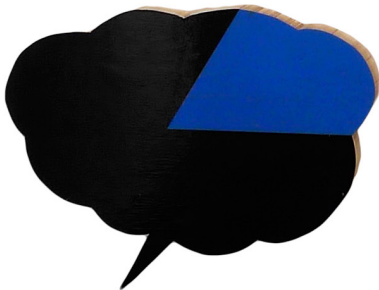


BELIEVE

GREELY MYATT





Greely Myatt, *BELIEVE*, 2016, neon, iron, plastic, sheet metal and walnut, 8 x 37 x 7 inches

BELIEVE

Greely Myatt, a well-respected fixture of the Memphis art scene, has been creating sculpture and installations for decades. Currently he is a Professor of Art at the University of Memphis where he has taught since 1989. His artwork has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States and abroad. Attesting to his prowess as artist and visual communicator, he has received many grants, fellowships and awards. In 2009 a series of citywide exhibitions were held in Memphis to honor this highly regarded sculptor.

Myatt's fabrications began with carving, first in stone then in wood. For a variety of reasons he tired of restricting himself to this relatively limited practice, so assemblage and found objects entered his work. This logical flow has culminated in what we see today, a hybrid of impeccable craftsmanship and carefully selected repurposed and or traditional materials.

His humorous, poignant and provocative work is created from a combination of found and formed materials. Myatt's palette consists of a never-ending assortment of salvaged objects, such as reclaimed street signs, discarded furniture, worn mop handles and old shovels, along with the more

traditional stone, steel and wood. Through the marriage of concept, form and material his skillfully crafted works of art inform and amuse viewers.

Drawing from his Mississippi roots and the long held tradition of oral storytelling in the Deep South, much of Myatt's art is narrative at its core. Although text does appear in his work, he frequently communicates by implying words and conversation through a recurring motif of speech and thought balloons. He uses these familiar comic strip contrivances to carry on wordless dialogs. Placed in various configurations each grouping suggests a new discussion or situation.

Through the combination of ingenuity, playfulness and dexterity this talented American artist coaxes us to reconsider our world. Be it a chuckle or insight, much can be gained by investing time in Myatt's work.

Les Christensen, Director
Bradbury Art Museum



Greely Myatt, *Plateaus of Platitudes*, 2014, reclaimed tables and steel, room installation

I am interested in history and stories and words. As an artist who has lived and worked in the American South I have tremendous respect for the narrative tradition. I like stories, told and retold, changed and distorted as the voice of the teller embellishes and exaggerates. Of course there is no truth in these stories, which lay claim to history but in fact are creative lies that make the world around us more interesting, at least for the teller or the artist, and hopefully for the receiver.

The title of the exhibition, BELIEVE, is meant to point to these interests. My process when putting together a show is to start with the title which I often make as a piece. In this case the initial title was taken from a rubber stamp that I had found some years back. The stamp read: "Absolutely No Warranty Given Or Implied." The release from responsibility this suggested interested me, however I wanted a quicker title. Somewhere I had read that in the

middle of the word BELIEVE is the word LIE. It seemed to be the same: "Believe me but I'm not responsible".

Beyond the title, which serves as a jumping off point not a literal constraint to be followed, the work is a mix of new and recent pieces from the past three years or so. In general my work is from my heart, filtered through my mind and made using my hands and eyes. The content can come from the vernacular landscape in which I live and work. Topics as varied as the comics, jokes, songs, social and political issues (even though the title was not meant to reference our current presidential campaign! It is indeed apt!), art history, both now and then and from the landscape, both physical and cultural.

Please believe me,
Greely



BRADBURY ART MUSEUM
MARCH 10 - APRIL 13, 2016

BradburyArtMuseum.org

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday: noon to 5pm

Sunday: 2 to 5pm

Front: **Greely Myatt**, *Delta Blue*, 2014
reclaimed wood and steel 90 x 90 x 7 inches

Back: **Greely Myatt**, *Big ReDot*, 2014, steel, wax and air, 90 x 90 x 3 inches

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