

JASON BRIGGS Artistic Statement

"The French say that the best part of an affair is going up the stairs. Desire is almost always more thrilling than fulfillment."

-Tom Robbins

Though my objects contain strong visual references, I am more interested in the implied *tactile* ones; the things that stir in me a compulsion to touch. Beyond other external inspiration lies this basic, primal impulse. I recognize – and act upon – a profound desire to push, poke, squeeze, stroke, caress, and pinch. I intend for my pieces to invoke a similar sort of temptation. Obvious sexual references, along with an extravagant, fetish-like attention to surface, can arouse a yearning to touch as powerful as the act itself. In this way a parallel can be drawn with pornography -- my first encounter with *Playboy*, for example, as an 8-year-old. My emotional response, *pure and utter fascination*, depended upon a compelling desire to *experience* flesh. When one views such imagery, I would argue that one is, at the very least, thinking about touching — about how it would feel. I want my work to elicit a similar response: *"What if I could touch it?"*

I am searching for a fresh perspective. I strive to create an object I've never quite seen before - one whose inherent mystery and intrigue quietly insists upon viewer interaction. An object begging to be explored and examined in much the same way a child investigates the world: with wonder, curiosity, and also trepidation. It's very important that the work be challenging. A sense of unease is critical because it encourages the viewer to consider carefully what they are seeing – at what is compelling them. I would like my work to exist not as the ubiquitous "art object", but as something more enigmatic - foreign yet familiar, handmade yet somehow organic. Rather than suggest nature, in my own way I am seeking to create it.