



OUACHITA ARTISTS
Gallery & Studio

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Open: Tuesday –Saturday 10 AM to 3 PM

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John Barton



I have been a working and teaching artist for thirty years. Over time I have discovered my actions and works to be those of a multidisciplinary teaching artist. From my first explorations into creativity I have been drawn to develop a personal inquiry relying on exploratory discovery processes. I find myself pushing boundaries, interrelationships, and alternatives in a sort of bricolage approach to mediums and processes. In general, I find myself pushing the boundaries between representation and abstraction in my finished product. I have the most fun when my work functions on multiple levels balancing on the edge of perception, flirting with both reality and expressive imagination. At any given time, I am working on multiple themes in multiple media. While my focus changes and shifts constantly I seem to be focused on two or three themes at a time. My choice of medium can be as fickle as the changing weather. I change mediums like others change hats. As it is in my nature, I make no excuses. It is enough to simply keep making, designing, exploring, playing, and sharing.

The inspiration for my work comes in many ways; concepts, ideas, emotions, the world around me, and interacting with others feeds the desire to express what I cannot speak. My creative visualization functions on conscious and subconscious levels. I typically start out working with notion or idea of what I am trying to accomplish and as I work the process itself begins to inform the decisions I make. This process, which includes plenty of daydreaming and simmering time allows the process to run its course and finished work to emerge. This kind of poking, prodding, pushing, kicking, and letting go process is intentional and intuitive at the same time.

I earned my BS in Fine Art Photography from the University of Wisconsin Superior and completed my MFA at the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a major in Ceramics with added concentrations in Printmaking and Sculpture double minor in Printmaking and Sculpture.