



KENISE BARNES FINE ART

MATT BARTER

STATEMENT

I am a visual artist currently working in multiple disciplines. As a painter, I work in oil and primarily paint on academy board. This hard surface allows me to tool the paint with brush and other objects. This board surface was also used by one of my mentors, Marsden Hartley who I have been studying for a number of years. My subject matter consists mostly of the working waterfront of Maine, the people and places around Frenchman Bay where I grew up.

As a sculptor I try to create pieces that work in tandem with the paintings, telling similar stories in an entirely different way. My process in sculpting begins with material sourcing, I use mostly found object, driftwood, reclaimed barn beams, other items that wash up on the beach etc. My working style is what most call "Bricolage" [I call it Glomming, an old Maine expression that means to attach, affix objects together by any means possible]. This glomming process, gluing and screwing reclaimed wood together allows for fast building and freedom to make quick decisions.

The current painting/sculpting project is called "GEAR". This project is about connecting fishermen to their gear in meaningful ways. Using storytelling and memories of my childhood working with my dad in different commercial fishing ventures I have been building a large installation. By calling the show GEAR I am using the colloquial word fishermen use to describe all the varied items they use to fish, rope, floats, oil skins, traps, nets, boat etc. Some of the sculptures are connected only using rope found on the beach. Others feature traditional finishes like boat paint, and dayglow buoy paints.

An aspect of my work that I have recently identified is the preliminary research I do with the fishermen I feature. I spend time on the pier chatting with the workers learning about their lives/struggles. This research I call "Downeast Anthropology".

I currently live and work in Brunswick and have a camp in Gouldsboro Maine where I go to develop my stories and study the working waterfronts.

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