

Jeremy Grant **Artist Statement**

JeremyGrantCreative.com

My process of making collage and assemblage works begins with an act of bestowing significance. Found objects, papers, and photographs catch my attention, and by salvaging them, I give them value. For me, the concepts I am embodying in my artistic disciplines are as important to me as the final works themselves. Ultimately I am reflecting on how people find and determine worth, value and abundance in the midst of pain, destruction and death.

Once I have gathered my materials, I often destroy them. I deconstruct furniture. I pound metal flat and slice photographs into tiny strips. I once reduced a wood cabinet to a pile of cubes. My goal is to decontextualize an object; to remove the most obvious, familiar associations; and to let the character and quality of the materials organically emerge. In taking an object apart, I discover its base element. To me, my destructive artmaking process also mirrors the way that all of us humans experience loss and suffering during our short existence.

After I have broken down my materials, I bring them back together, pairing items in unexpected ways and eventually transforming these discarded, disconnected objects into assembled pieces of art. I like to think of this as creating new life out of destruction.

As I begin to discover and build meaning into my work, I bring in objects I have preserved in their found state. A photograph, a toy, or a plaque may carry some associations that speak stories to me, and so allow me to reflect my own emotions and philosophy in the work.

My process of artmaking mirrors my own emotional and philosophical journey to seek and memorialize meaning. Throughout my process, I am both making and discovering meaning. I sketch, read, and think about where I want to take the work, and I also allow room for the work to lead and surprise me. The finished pieces are both an expression of my own journey and an invitation for viewers to find meaning in the work, informed by their own experiences.