

Steve Novick · Recent Work

“The pilfered object becomes not only mine, it becomes me, and thereby takes on new life,
the life that I give it.”

“I was wary of the woods when I was young... I knew the old gods dwelt there still,
the old ogres.”

— John Banville, *The Blue Guitar*

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Approximation is the mirror image of abstraction. While the former involves ‘drawing near to’, the latter concerns ‘drawing away from’. In both instances, decisions are made as to what remains, and what is removed—qualities stated and implied, visible and invisible. Determining which aspects to approach, and which to leave behind, defines one’s sensibility.

My work presents approximations and abstractions of nature and of culture, and—in some instances, inevitably—places where those spheres intersect. It is possible to represent nature only through culture while, like any human activity, culture must draw on the natural world for sustenance.

My process involves assembling found objects and materials. Collecting things—from thrift stores, yard sales, and flea markets—is an important facet of my work. In this phase, I often will undertake the use of a new item or form, or realize the solution to a previously intractable problem.

Although the physical resolution of my pieces may be quick, the ideas behind them tend to gestate slowly. Simple items, and parts of more complex ones, are fitted together via a process of trial, error, and serendipity. Cleaning, polishing, and refinishing aside, nearly all objects and materials are used as-is, and painted interventions are minimal.

Plaster components are cast from found molds.
