



Compass Rose

Literature and Art Journal

COMPASS ROSE interviews Brian Boldon

Compass Rose: *When did you begin creating art, and what inspired you to do so?*

Brian Boldon: I began in high school and always felt compelled to respond to my experiences through making objects and images. I began with an interest in building objects out of wood, clay and metal, and then explored drawing and painting.

CR: *What kind of controversy have you encountered for the work you've created?*

Boldon: My work does deal with subject matter that is challenging. I explore Issues of identity as it relates to the body offering artwork that that uses scientific and fragment images of the body to explore personal and cultural perceptions of the body. I have not experienced any controversy with my work, but I have encountered a resistance to some to the projects that I have produced.

CR: *How did attending the Rhode Island School of Design affect your craft?*

Boldon: RISD was an excellent experience for me. I was in the ceramics program, but found the dialog with all the graduate students, and the visiting artist program to affect my approach to making art the most. I have always been on the fringes of the field of Ceramics, more interested in mixed media, new media, and sculpture. RISD really opened up a new way for me to respond to contemporary art with a variety of media, and focused my intentions for my use of ceramics in the my work.

CR: *How hard was it to "break into the industry" personally?*

Boldon: It is always a challenge if you make what you feel you need to make and then seek exhibitions. I think it is less challenging if your make artwork that galleries want you to make. Developing a body of artwork that you truly believe in has been my approach and it continues to be challenging to show my work in venues that allow experimentation and innovation.

CR: *What's been your worst experience while being an artist?*

Boldon: This is a long list. Basically being a artist is exceptionally rewarding and I feel lucky that I found art as a way to act on my life experience. The more negative aspects of being and artist for me has be the choices made to find a way to support a life in art. You have to figure out a way to make money and keep making art. Along the way just about everything that could happen has happened. I think that getting back from your work what you need to

be excited and motivated to continue to make art propels you forward. The negative experiences are woven into the choice to be an artist.

CR: *What's the biggest compliment you've ever received for your work?*

Boldon: I have been recognized for the contributions I have made as an artist. This includes great opportunities to show my work internationally and nationally. The best compliment is continued interest in my work and exciting opportunities to actualize new ideas.

CR: *Have you ever felt tapped for ideas? How do you remedy that?*

Boldon: I have never felt at a loss for ideas. I have been stumped sometimes as to how to approach a project, the best way to use visual language, materials, and space to support my conceptual interests. Often coming up with multiple approaches before I start, and being flexible to the possibilities that present themselves in the studio allows for creative choices. I start by knowing what I want to express and then use the organic interaction in the studio to uncover the most effective way to express the idea.

CR: *Do you have any plans for future exhibits lined up?*

Boldon: Yes. I just finished major installations in Denmark and at the Museum of Northwest Art in the last year. I am now planning additional exhibitions for my current work and working on new work for future exhibition.

CR: *Are there any contemporary artists you're a fan of?*

Boldon: I am currently most interested in new media artists like Jeffery Shaw and Char Davies and new approaches to architecture by Peter Eisenman and Elizabeth Diller+Ricardio Scofidio. I also am interested in the use of digital media and distortion in the works of Robert Lazzarini .

CR: *And finally, do you believe art is dead, dying, or alive and well?*

Boldon: Creative vision and expression is inseparable from human beings. All forms of art are a continual form of communication and a primary vehicle for shared human experience.