

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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### Now that summer is here, I'm working with ICE!

Last winter was a tough one in New England. The snow really piled up, and the Connecticut River froze up solid. On March 7th the ice on the river started to break up and I took some pictures of the ice jam and flow (right). At the time I had no thought of using the photos as a starting point for a new wall relief, but as you can see I am now underway with this 80" X 108" project behind me (picture below).

In this picture I am painting the edges of the "ice" to suggest the translucent blue-green color of frozen water. The ice is actually 1" thick insulation foam and I am making it into shapes by cutting and/or breaking the large styrofoam sheets which I coat with white gesso on the top surfaces. I then grind each piece to a desired thickness using the stationary disc sander in my workshop.

Assembly is an intuitive process gauged by my personal aesthetic and the slow buildup of forms that I contemplate before

and after each addition. Sometimes I sit and evaluate the placement for quite a while before anything is glued into final position.

This project is only the beginning. I would like to carry the theme further using other compositions and develop techniques that will capture both a real sense of the ice flow, as well as the unique abstract quality of my solution.

