

B. Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

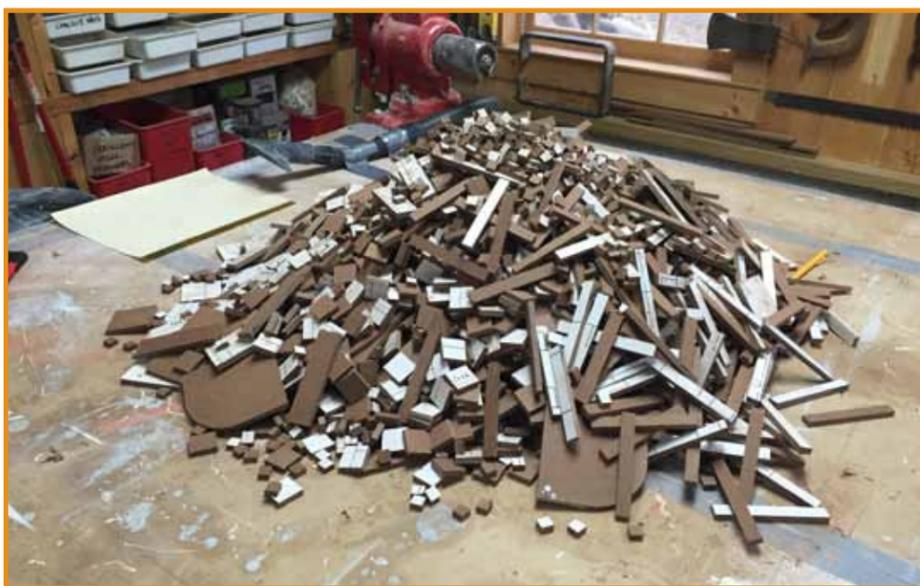
Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution Vol. VI No. 4 April 2016

Studio Shots

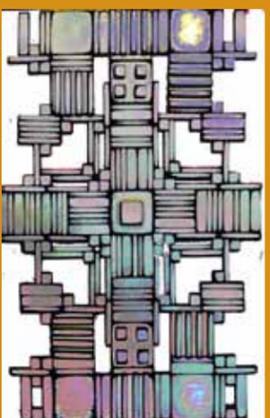
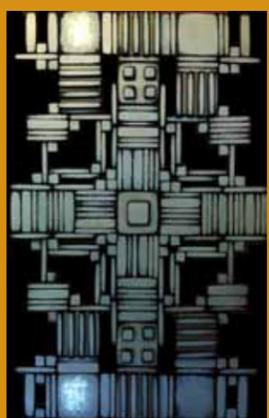
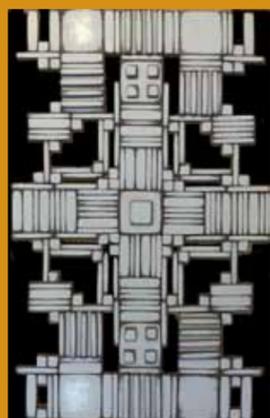
I have been approached by Castleton (Vermont) University's Christine Price Gallery about presenting an exhibition of my work in the spring of 2017. Thanks to introductions made by my friend Richard Weis, whose studio I featured in last month's Studio News, I will spend the year getting new works ready and trying to present a show that features my ongoing wall-hung reliefs. Work now in process will have to be large enough to occupy the walls of this large 85' X 25' space, and is a challenge I am looking forward to.

My upstairs studio is now opened up to assembly of some new work that may suggest an architectural bias. The conceptual intent, however, is still only partially clear in my mind's eye; which of course is how I operate. Where each new project begins may point toward the final result, but does not necessarily exact a final solution... those results, when successful, service an evolutionary process that involves perhaps hundreds or thousands of decisions relative to juxtapositions or relational choices based upon my overview of the artwork generally; also my personal aesthetic objective. Results, as I state in my newsletter's heading, is highly contingent upon an evolving sense of that aesthetic.

Corollary to the assembly process, is the selection and/or creation of my materials. In the pictures you see below are more of the thousands of small pieces I am manufacturing in my basement workshop. The process involves establishing geometric shapes with specific proportional dimensions that can be arranged (not unlike children's building blocks) in infinite combinations. Creating these shapes from coated/tempered masonite requires lots of time on the table saw, band saw, thickness planer and jointer as well as hand sanding each piece. Finally I have to thoroughly clean and wash each small piece to remove dust before assembly. (some aspects of art making is not fun... hence artWORK!)



One pile of assorted modular pieces cut to size and ready for sanding.



These are preliminary "studies" to help me understand what can be done with this collection of modular pieces. In some cases, as the three on the left, I import a photo of the sample construction study and play with it, using my computer like a digital sketchbook and auxiliary method of visualizing options for each piece.



(Above) This is the beginning of a 9.0' X 10.0' relief set up on tables for glueing. The final work will have nine 36" X 40" panels cut from five Luan hollow core doors.

(Below) two panels with masonite modules glued in place, as they will appear vertically. These are still a long way from completion. The background areas of these, and the other seven panels will require additional elements of texture and color.

