

# Chicago Sculptor John T. Upchurch Combines/Refines Objects to Perfection

*Chicago sculptor John T. Upchurch combines and refines objects to perfection in his new work.*

CHICAGO, IL, USA, June 15, 2023  
/EINPresswire.com/ -- [John T. Upchurch](#)

Born in Chicago, 1968

BFA, 1990. Kansas City Art Institute

For the last several years, John T. Upchurch has crafted and appropriated discarded elements and manufactured materials to produce a prolific body of sculptural objects, testing boundaries around concepts of the hand-made - found art and industrial cast-offs. His inspirations include patent models, specimen collections and curious tools.

Upchurch's enigmatic objects defy scale and are prized by collectors for their dynamic compositions, thoughtful materiality and subtle color balance.



John Upchurch Sculpture 2023, ceramic and bronze  
Rare Nest Gallery

“

John also designed several covers for the band Wilco.”

*Gallery Director Keith Bringe*

“I’m interested in both prototypes and relics—in the beginnings of ideas and their remnants. The artifacts we create and leave behind reveal our ability and desire to understand the world. They also expose the limits of that understanding. The tensions between tradition and innovation; the known and the newly conceived; the

successive, overlapping Systems of the World provide a foundation for my exploration of form and materials.”

In 1990 Upchurch received his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute where he simultaneously studied and performed in bands. Upon graduation, Upchurch returned to his native Chicago. From 1988 – 1995, Upchurch was a principal in the acclaimed band “The Coxtails”. In relation to his sculptural work, the band placed distinctive emphasis on the design and materiality of “fan gear”. Their posters were enthusiastically collected, and Upchurch subsequently founded Fireproof Press - a letterpress and design studio focused primarily on creative packaging for the music industry. Clients included Warner Bros., Touch and Go, London Records, Oprah Winfrey, Thrill Jockey, DC Comics and U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins. John also designed several covers for the band Wilco. In 2018, Upchurch left his long-time day-gig as Director of Instructional Technology at Columbia College and now focuses his vision on developing concepts in sculptural objects.

The artist reflects, “Wood, stone, metal, found objects and other, largely-salvaged components are employed in varied configurations. These are directed both by the characteristics of the material-density, pliability, texture, connotation—and my ability to shape them. Fabrication is informed by various traditions of formal and vernacular craft, but the process is decidedly intuitive and personal. A piece is finished when it’s attained some plausible sense of identity, history or utility—and sometimes just when it manages to make me laugh”.



John T. Upchurch Sculpture "Skim" 2023 Rare Nest Gallery



John T. Upchurch Chicago Sculptor Rare Nest Gallery

Keith Bringe  
Rare Nest Gallery  
+1 708-616-8671  
keith@rarenestgallery.com  
Visit us on social media:  
[Instagram](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/638827809>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.