

Ehrlich Steinberg
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Wednesday - Saturday 12-6pm

Joel Otterson
Biography

Joel Otterson (b. 1959, Inglewood, CA)
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

For the past forty years, Joel Otterson has made artworks, which combine aspects of domestic handicraft with traditional sculptural materials. Copper pipe, bronze, woodworking, pottery, porcelain, china, earthenware, concrete, stained glass and lacemaking are the raw materials of Otterson's practice. Utilizing varied techniques such as sewing, quilting, casting and welding, Otterson combines discordant materials, continuously reevaluating and transforming supposed artistic hierarchies. The artist blurs the line between high and low culture, art and craft to create objects which are simultaneously utilitarian and de-constructivist, delicate and robust. Through this endeavor, Otterson explores various cultural, art historic and political phenomena such as aesthetics, the sublime, Rock-N-Roll, Baseball, the domestic, and what it means to be an American.

Otterson received his BFA from Parsons School of Design, New York in 1982. Previous exhibitions include The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (PROJECT series, 1987); the Venice Biennale (1993); the Hammer Museum (Made in L.A., 2012) and the Whitney Museum of American Art (2014 Whitney Biennial). Otterson's work is included in numerous permanent collections such as Cincinnati Art Museum, the Hammer Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.



Joel Otterson
My Shoes, 1988
Cast iron, cast iron pipe and fittings, candles
51 x 27 x 30 in. (129.5 x 68.6 x 76.2 cm)