

Robert Mazrim

### Statement

I work in mixed media and canvas. The appropriation and relabeling of found objects and debris is a consistent theme. Mixed media compositions often explore the imagery and juxtapositions of extinction, where the manipulation of artifacts is used to place contemporary culture in the past tense. Paintings or works on canvas explore the intuitive and visceral aspects of mark-making, and also incorporate found materials and methods of inadvertent juxtaposition.

### Bio

I was raised in Illinois and received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1989. While in Chicago, I was an instructor in the Sound Design Department of SAIC (1989), and held a Research Internship at the Lake County Museum (Wauconda). Between 1988 and 1991, I curated exhibits at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Lake County Museum, and the Priebe Gallery at the University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh). I exhibited sculptural and multi-media work at the N.A.M.E Gallery (Chicago), Madison Performing Arts Center (Madison, Wisconsin), the SAIC Student Gallery. I also wrote art criticisms for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, and was floor manager of the Forum Gallery (St. Louis).

In 1990, I entered the field of archaeology and historical preservation. I have conducted field and archival research for a number of organizations and universities. Between 1991 and 1994, I also operated *Mnemonic Images*, a small video production company that produced short video documentaries (archaeology, history, and popular culture).

In 2001, I designed the *Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum* (Elkhart, Illinois), which I managed until 2009. That exhibit has since been installed at the Dickson Mounds Museum (part of the Illinois State Museum) in Lewiston. I served as Adjunct Professor of Historical Archaeology at Illinois State University in 2009, and have published numerous books and articles about early American and French Colonial archaeology.

More recently (2009-2015), my work has been exhibited at the Duane Reed Gallery (St Louis) and the Springfield Art Association. I also teach studio classes and have curated exhibits at the Springfield Art Association.