**Malcolm Easton** | Artist Statement

My earliest experiences with making art used commonplace materials and makeshift arrangements. Years later, I am still drawn to these approaches. Searching through thrift stores and estate sales, I pore over objects from prior decades. I'm particularly attracted to a piece that carries signs of longtime use—suggesting its past significance in someone's life. Though I have no connection with the original owner, I aim to preserve a memory of something that might otherwise vanish.

The objects that I collect represent a variety of domestic artifacts from our cultural debris. Selecting from these, I improvise temporary arrangements. In my configurations the items leave behind their original roles. I include vintage ephemera as I seek connections that can bring my subjects together in unexpected ways.

Looking beyond the confines of the studio, I include an expanse of sky or a peephole to the outside world. In this way, I search for additional connections, for synergies between things close by and distant.

My arrangements are temporary, but I retain my objects, often using them again in future compositions. I become attached to these previous belongings of strangers as if they were part of my own history.