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Jonathan David Brilliant
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Born in 1976 Charleston, SC
Lives/works Raleigh, NC

Education

2007 **M.F.A.**, Spatial Arts, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
2002 **B.A.**, Studio Art; minor Art History, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

Awards , Grants, Fellowships

2011 **Pollock Krasner Foundation Individual Artist Grant**
2011 **South Carolina Arts Commission Visual Arts Fellow**
2009 **Juror's Award**, National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, North Charleston, SC
2008 **Winner Bridge art fair Miami/Myartspace.com emerging artist prize**
2007 **Joan Mitchell Foundation full fellowship award**, sculpture residency, Vermont Studio Center
2005 **Auvil Graduate Assistantship**, Printmaking, San Jose State University
2003 **Partial Fellowship**, Penland School of Crafts

Residencies

2013 **Visiting Artist**, Kendall College of Art and Design
2013 **Artist in Residence**, Artfields Festival
2012 **Visiting Artist**, Center for Creativity and the Arts, CSU Fresno
2012 **Artist in Residence**, Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns, North Queensland Australia
2012 **Artist in Residence**, Artspace Raleigh
2012 **Visiting Artist**, Coastal Carolina University
2011 **Artist in Residence**, Visual Arts Center of Richmond
2011 **Visiting Artist**, Kendall College of Art and Design
2011 **Visiting Artist**, Winthrop University
2011 **Visiting Artist**, Georgia College State University
2010 **Artist in Residence**, McColl Center For Visual Art
2010 **Visiting Artist**, Henderson State University
2010 **Visiting Artist**, Ouachita Baptist University
2009 **Artist in Residence**, East/West Project, Berlin Germany
2009 **Visiting Artist**, University of Memphis
2009 **Visiting Artist**, University of Oklahoma

- 2008 **Visiting Artist**, South Carolina State University
- 2007 **Artist in Residence**, Accessibility residency program, Sumter County Gallery of Art
- 2007 **Artist in Residence**, Ox-Bow School of Art
- 2006 **Artist in Residence**, Redux Contemporary Art Center

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Site works (* indicates site-specific installation)

- 2014 **Building A Universe**, SC Museum of Art, Columbia, SC*
- 2013 **Campaign of Good Fortune**, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI*
- Crates and Impressions**, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta GA
- Out of The Box**, Artfields Festival, Lake City, SC *
- Woven Structure**, Permanent commission, City Hall Plaza, North Charleston SC
- 2012 **In Tension**, Roam Projects, Birmingham, AL*
- Woven and Stacked**, California State University, Fresno, CA*
- The Cairns Piece**, Cairns Festival, Cairns Queensland, Australia*
- To Weave, To Stack, To Stain**, Artspace, Raleigh, NC*
- Make Ends Meet**, Olek, Matthew Curran, Jonathan Brilliant, Flanders Gallery, Raleigh, NC*
- Fine Lines, Found Textures, and First Impressions**. Columbia College, Columbia , SC*
- Weaving, Stacking, and Staining**. Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC*
- 2011 **Stick, Stack, Show**, Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Richmond, VA*
- First Impressions(works on paper)**, The Warehouse, Greenville, SC
- Have Sticks Will Travel @Artprize**, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI*
- Field of Good Fortune**, outdoor installation, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC*
- Two Rooms**, Georgia College State University, Milledgeville, GA*
- 2010 **ZipStir**, McColl Center, Charlotte NC*
- Bumbershoot Festival**, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA*
- Mas Alla de Las Palabres**, Galeria Pez Gordo, San Jose Del Cabo, BCS, Mexico*
- Have Sticks Will Travel World Tour**, 18Rabbit Gallery, Ft Lauderdale FL*
- The Arkadelphia Piece**, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR*
- Eternal Return**, NurtureArt, Brooklyn, NY*
- Sticks, Straws, Sleeves and Lids**, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC*
- 2009 **Reconstruction**, Dam Stuhltrager gallery, Berlin Germany*
- Have Sticks Will Travel**, Jones Alumni Gallery, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN*
- Have Sticks Will Travel**, Lightwell Gallery, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK*
- Contemporary Charleston 2009:Revelation of Process**, City Gallery, Charleston, SC*
- 2008 **Weaving Stir Sticks around A Column**, F.A.B. gallery S.C. State University, Orangeburg, SC*
- The Goldsworthy of the Coffee Shop**, Dam Stuhltrager Gallery, Brooklyn, NY*
- 2007 **Accessibility:(Sustainability)** Sumter Gallery of Art, Sumter, SC*
- Rust Never Sleeps**, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
- 2006 **The Goldsworthy of The Coffee Shop**, Redux Contemporary art center, Charleston, SC*

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2011 **Fortunate**, Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, SC
- Air-Travel**, Corridor 2122, Fresno CA
- Greenlight III**, Bank of America Plaza, Curated by Joie Lassiter, Charlotte, NC
- 2010-2014 **Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition**, Semi Permanent installation, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA
- 2010 **Black Vs. White**, Robert Lange Studios, Charleston SC
- 2009 **National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition**, River Front Park, North Charleston, SC
- THiNGS, (Curated by:Jonathan Brilliant)** Eye Level Art 103 Spring, Charleston, SC
- Past Presence**, Redux Contemporary Art Center, Charleston, SC
- 2008 **Bridge Art Fair Miami**, Catalina Hotel, Miami FL
- 2007 **Wish You Were Here: Work by Ox-Bow Artists in Residence**, Holland, MI
- Reorientation**, Redux Contemporary Art Center, Charleston, SC
- Paper Cuts 3**, The Fetterly Gallery, Vallejo, CA
- Lift Off**, San Jose Institute of Contemporary art, San Jose, CA
- Group Show**, Tesuque Village Market, Santa Fe, NM

- Re-cre-art**, Lisa Coscino Gallery, Sand City, CA
 2005 **Fresh Strokes**, Heritage Arts Collaborative, San Jose, CA
The Floating, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Charleston SC
 2004 **Submerged**, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Charleston SC

Public Collections

City of North Charleston
 University of Oklahoma
 Henderson State University
 University of West Georgia
 Georgia College & State University
 California State University, Fresno
 Hyatt Hotels, Greenville SC

Selected Bibliography

To Weave. To Stack. To Stain. Exhibition Brochure, Essay by Lia Newman, August 2012
 Viteillo, Chris. "Repetition, Compulsion, and Miles of Yarn", *Independent Weekly*, June 27, 2012
 Lord, Jo. "Artist Inspired by Dynamics of Coffee Shop", *Richmond Times Dispatch*, November 6, 2011
 Moore, Thad. "Cookie Fortunes Decorate Columbia Street Corner", *The Daily Gamecock*, June 1, 2011
 Taylor, Otis. "Cookie Messages Grow into Public Art", *The State*, May 19, 2011
 Renn, Caitlin, "A 'Brilliant' Installment", *The Colonade*, January 27, 2011
Greenlight III, Exhibition Brochure, Essay by Joie Lassiter, 2011
 Upchurch, Michael. "Bumbershoot Opening Day". *The Seattle Times*, September 4, 2010
 Miller, Brian. "Bumbershoot Visual Arts Preview". *Seattle Weekly*, September 3, 2010
 Delcambre, Dave, "Fantasticks". *North Carolina ArtSee Magazine*, September, 2010
 Mastis, Vikki, "Sculpture Artist has Fitting Last Name". *Charleston Scene*, August 5, 2010
 Furbush, Gael, "Jonathan Brilliant". *Blu Magazine*, July 2010
 Meleod, Harriet, "Creative Jolt". *Charleston Magazine*, May 2010
 Dougher Colleen, "The Stick Man". *City Link*, March 24, 2010
 "Have Sticks Will Travel world tour to visit OBU in March." *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, February 25, 2010
 Gilkerson, Mary. "Sticks, Straws, Sleeves and Lids Creates Beauty From Mundane". *Free Time*, February 18, 2010
Eternal Return, exhibition Brochure, 2010
Sticks, Straws, Sleeves and Lids, exhibition brochure, 2010
 Ragan, Sean, "Giant Cobweb Made of Coffee Stirrers". <http://blog.makezine.com>, October 25, 2009
 Overton, Paul, "Stir it up- The Work of Jonathan Brilliant". <http://www.dudecraft.com>, October 23, 2009
 Tyree, James, "Artist is 'stick'ing to his natural environment for 'stirring' work". *The Oklahoman*, August 26, 2009
 Meier, Allison, "South Carolina artist pours out immense installation". *Ok Gazette*, August 26, 2009
 Kulze, Liz. "In tune with Jonathan Brilliant and Karin Olah". *Charleston City Paper*, August 17, 2009
 Bowers, Paul, "Caffeinated art". *The Post and Courier*, June 4, 2009
 Smith, Nick, "Contemporary Charleston Celebrates Local Visionaries". *The Charleston City Paper*, May 20, 2009
Contemporary Charleston 2009: Revelation of Process(catalog and DVD), 2009
 Curcio, Seth. "Chris Coffin & Jonathan Brilliant", <http://www.dailyserving.com>, September 12, 2008
Brilliant Package(self published catalog, edition of 20), 2008.
 Gilkerson, Mary. "Installation Art Rounds out a Month of Accessibility", *Columbia Free Times*, October 31, 2007
Lift Off(Exhibition Catalog), 2007.
 Smith, Nick. "The beauty in the sadness of things", *The Charleston City Paper*. July 12, 2006.
The Floating(Exhibition Catalog), 2005.

Media Appearances

KMPH26, FOX affiliate, Fresno, CA "Sculpture with 50,000 stir sticks", September 13, 2012
 KGPE47, CBS affiliate, Fresno, CA "Art Exhibit", September 13, 2012
 KSFN-TV, ABC affiliate, Fresno, CA "Stir Stick Art", September 13, 2012
 Australian Broadcast Corporation, Phil Staley Interviewer, August 18, 2012
 WMBF-TV, NBC affiliate, Myrtle Beach, SC "Lowcountry Living", January 13, 2012
 WLTX-TV, CBS affiliate Columbia SC, "Giant Fortune Cookie Messages Invade Columbia" Feature story, May 18, 2011

WIS-TV, NBC affiliate Columbia SC “Artist Hopes to Bring Good Fortune” Feature story, September 28, 2010
KPLU, Seattle NPR affiliate, “The 40th Bumbershoot is as Eclectic as Ever”, September 3, 2010
Marty Reimer Radio Show, Seattle WA, July 20, 2010
“Jonathan Brilliant: Mas Allas De La Palabres”. Cabovision news service, BCS Mexico, June 1, 2010
“Gringo Gazette TV.” English Language news service, BCS Mexico, May 25, 2010
“Kark Evening News.” Fox Channel 4, Little Rock, March 9, 2010
“WACH Evening News.” Fox news affiliate, Columbia SC, January 21, 2010
“WREG Live at 9.” CBS Channel 3, Memphis, October 9, 2009

Lectures and Performances

2013 **Artist Lecture**, Art Now lecture series, Morris Museum of Art
2013 **Artist Lecture**, Modern Monday lecture series, Bechtler Museum of Art
2012 **Artist Lecture**, Soup To Nuts lecture series, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *Low Tech, Low Budget; That’s The Way I Roll*. NC Museum of Art
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *Woven and Stacked*, CSU Fresno
2012 **Pecha Kucha Cairns**, Pecha Kucha Night Cairns, Far North Queensland Australia
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel: Down Under*. Cairns Botanic Gardens
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *To Weave. To Stack. To Stain.*, Artspace Raleigh
2012 **Panel discussion and problem solving workshop**, North Carolina Museum of Art
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *Had Sticks, done traveled*, Columbia College
2012 **Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Stacking and Staining*, Coastal Carolina University
2011 **Percussion and Media Performance**, with Philip Estes and Alex Rosen, Jailbreak Arts Festival
2011 **Artist Lecture**, *Stick, Stack, Show*, Visual Arts Center of Richmond
2011 **Artist Lecture**, *Stick, Stack, Show*, Kendall College of Art and Design
2011 **Artist Lecture**, *Had Sticks, done traveled, what’s next?*, Winthrop University
2011 **Artist Lecture**, *Had Sticks, done traveled, what’s next?*, Georgia College & State University
2010 **Media Performance**, with Alex Rosen, *Projecting the Sky So It Can See Itself*, McColl Center
2010 **Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel: The Year That Was*, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
2010 **Solo Percussion Performance**, *Pipes, Percussion and Pecha Kucha*, Mint Museum of Art
2010 **Artist Lecture**, *Where I’ve been and Where I’m Going*, Galeria Pezgordo
2010 **Artist Lecture**, *Where I’ve been and Where I’m Going*, Florida Atlantic University
2010 **Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel*, Ouachita Baptist University
2010 **Artist Lecture**, *Sticks, Straws, Sleeves and Lids*, University of South Carolina
2009 **Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Welding, Stacking, Arranging, Coffee Cups and Performance*, University of Memphis
2009 **Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Welding, Stacking, Arranging, Coffee Cups and Performance*, University of Oklahoma
2009 **Artist Lecture**, *Coffee Cups as Portable Consumer Fetish Objects*, Redux CAC
2009 **Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Tension, and the Politics of Space*, City Gallery at Waterfront Park
2008 **Artist Lecture**, *Why I do what I do over and over again*, S.C. State University
2008 **Artist Lecture**, *Things, process, Labor and the Coffee Cup*, Austin Peay State University
2007 **Artist Lecture**, *The Transformative Power of Labor*, Sumter County Cultural Center
2007 **Artist Lecture**, *Southern Has-Been, British Wanna-Be*, Ox-Bow School of Art

Biographical Narrative

Jonathan Brilliant was born in 1976 in Charleston, South Carolina. Brilliant holds a B.A. in studio art from the College of Charleston and an M.F.A. in Spatial Arts from San Jose State University. Brilliant is a recipient of an individual artist grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and is a South Carolina Arts Commission Visual Arts Fellow. He has exhibited his work in several group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally. He has received numerous fellowships to artist residencies and communities including McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte, NC; The Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI; The Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT; Redux Contemporary Art Center, Charleston, SC; Artspace, Raleigh, NC and The East/West Project in Berlin Germany. He has served as a visiting artist for The University of Oklahoma, Norman Oklahoma, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI; University of Memphis, TN; Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC; and Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC among others. From May 2009-December 2010 he conducted his *Have Sticks Will Travel: World Tour*, a marathon series of site-specific installations that took place in thirteen galleries in eighteen months, in three countries, on two continents, and included a stop at the Bumbershoot Festival in Seattle, WA. In 2011 he was the Artist-in-Residence at the Visual Arts Center of

Richmond, VA, where he created a comprehensive multi-room installation utilizing coffee shop ephemera. In 2012 he served as an Artist in Residence at the Cairns Festival in Far North Queensland Australia, and at the Center for Creativity and the arts at CSU Fresno, California. He currently lives with his wife Brooke, son Asher and two cats Zero and Chicken in Raleigh North Carolina.

Statement of Artistic Intent

“In addition to his work as visual artist, Jonathan Brilliant is a drummer. It’s a good fact to know about him upfront as the cadence and underlying pulse inherent to such percussive sensibilities impart an edge to his art that explains a lot about what’s happening. There are distinct tempos, repetitions and an underlying structure in his artwork. These Rhythmic qualities lend a certain presence and pattern to his installations where you can literally feel the vibe”

-Dave Delcambre, October 2010 Artsee Magazine

In 2006 I began my “Goldsworthy of the coffee shop project” initially assuming the role of a British artist who gathers materials in his natural environment and uses them to execute a site-specific installation. In my version the natural environment was the coffee shop, and my materials were the to-go coffee cup and all it’s accoutrements. The resulting work was both ironic and labor intensive with a traditional craft based sensibility. In this ongoing series of work, I now continue to explore my sense that the coffee shop and related materials are more organic and nurturing than the “real” natural environment.

My work for this series is assembled on site and creates a specific sculptural response to the time and space provided. The palette of materials used to realize these installations consists exclusively of materials related to the to-go coffee cup culture. Materials including, coffee cup sleeves, coffee cup lids, coffee grounds, and straws are stacked arranged and affixed to the gallery space itself creating a visual dialog between coffee and architecture. Central to all of these installations are monumental woven coffee stir stick structures. Each installation contains 30,000-50,000 sticks. All the sticks used in these installations are woven in place entirely with tension and compression, no adhesive is used, creating an uncanny sculptural environment for the viewer. The installations offer a unique experience for viewers where they are quite literally immersed in an environment created from nothing but the accouterments of the coffee cup.