



[www.jonathanbrilliant.com](http://www.jonathanbrilliant.com)

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**  
**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, Vermont Studio Center  
2005 **Auvil Graduate Assistantship**, Printmaking, San Jose State University  
2003 **Partial Fellowship**, Wood, Penland School of Crafts

### Residencies

2015 **Visiting Artist**, Minnesota State University  
2014 **Visiting Artist**, Austin Peay State University  
**Artist in Residence**, Louisiana Art and Science Museum  
2013 **Visiting Artist**, Kendall College of Art and Design  
**Artist in Residence**, Artfields Festival  
2012 **Visiting Artist**, Center for Creativity and the Arts, CSU Fresno  
**Artist in Residence**, Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns, Far North Queensland Australia  
**Artist in Residence**, Artspace Raleigh  
**Visiting Artist**, Coastal Carolina University  
2011 **Artist in Residence**, Visual Arts Center of Richmond  
**Visiting Artist**, Kendall College of Art and Design  
**Visiting Artist**, Winthrop University  
**Visiting Artist**, Georgia College State University  
2010 **Artist in Residence**, McColl Center For Visual Art  
**Visiting Artist**, Henderson State University  
**Visiting Artist**, Ouachita Baptist University  
2009 **Artist in Residence**, East/West Project, Berlin Germany  
**Visiting Artist**, University of Memphis  
**Visiting Artist**, University of Oklahoma  
2008 **Visiting Artist**, South Carolina State University  
2007 **Artist in Residence**, Accessibility residency program, Sumter County Gallery of Art  
**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)

- 2015 **TBA**, Greenhill, Greensboro, NC\*  
**TBA**, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN\*
- 2014 **TBA**, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN\*  
**Building A Universe**, SC Museum of Art, Columbia, SC\*  
**The Red Stick Piece**, Louisiana Art and Science Museum, Baton Rouge, LA\*  
**The HQ Piece**, HQ Raleigh, Raleigh, NC\*
- 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

### Lectures and Performances

- 2014 **Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel*, Louisiana State University  
 2013 **Artist Lecture**, Art Now lecture series, Morris Museum of Art  
**Artist Lecture**, Modern Monday lecture series, Bechtler Museum of Art  
 2012 **Artist Lecture**, Soup To Nuts lecture series, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art  
**Artist Lecture**, *Low Tech, Low Budget; That's The Way I Roll*. NC Museum of Art  
**Artist Lecture**, *Woven and Stacked*, CSU Fresno  
**Pecha Kucha Cairns**, Pecha Kucha Night Cairns, Far North Queensland Australia  
**Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel: Down Under*. Cairns Botanic Gardens  
**Artist Lecture**, *To Weave. To Stack. To Stain.*, Artspace Raleigh  
**Panel discussion and problem solving workshop**, North Carolina Museum of Art  
**Artist Lecture**, *Had Sticks, Done Traveled*, Columbia College  
**Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Stacking and Staining*, Coastal Carolina University  
 2011 **Percussion and Media Performance**, with Philip Estes and Alex Rosen, Jailbreak Arts Festival  
**Artist Lecture**, *Stick, Stack, Show*, Visual Arts Center of Richmond  
**Artist Lecture**, *Stick, Stack, Show*, Kendall College of Art and Design  
**Artist Lecture**, *Had Sticks, done traveled, what's next?*, Winthrop University  
**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  
**Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel: The Year That Was*, University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
**Solo Percussion Performance**, *Pipes, Percussion and Pecha Kucha*, Mint Museum of Art  
**Artist Lecture**, *Where I've been and Where I'm Going*, Galeria Pezgordo  
**Artist Lecture**, *Where I've been and Where I'm Going*, Florida Atlantic University  
**Artist Lecture**, *Have Sticks Will Travel*, Ouachita Baptist University  
**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  
**Artist Lecture**, *Weaving, Welding, Stacking, Arranging, Coffee Cups and Performance*, University of Oklahoma  
**Artist Lecture**, *Coffee Cups as Portable Consumer Fetish Objects*, Redux CAC  
**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  
**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  
**Artist Lecture**, *Southern Has-Been, British Wanna-Be*, Ox-Bow School of Art

### Media Appearances

- WZZM13, ABC affiliate, Grand Rapids, MI, September 19, 2013  
 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

## **Public Collections**

Louisiana Art and Science Museum  
City of North Charleston  
University of West Georgia  
Georgia College & State University  
California State University, Fresno  
Hyatt Hotels, Greenville SC

## **Selected Bibliography**

Bowers, Paul. "Art Heist leads to new sculpture", *Charleston City Paper*, April 23, 2013  
"Jonathan Brilliant". *Pasajes Arquitectura*, Spain, April, 2013  
"Woven Installation of 60,000 Coffee Stirrers", *Juxtapoz.com*, January 16, 2013  
Underwood, Madison. "Building a Wormhole in Downtown Birmingham", *Birmingham News*, October 2, 2012  
Masterson, Andrew. "Sticks Make Great Art", *Cairns Sun*, September 19, 2012  
**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  
McLeod, 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.

## **Related Professional Experience**

2014 **Full Time Sabbatical Replacement**, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK  
2012 **Art Handler** (Temporary Pool), NC Museum of Art  
2011 **Instructor Foundations**, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
2010 **Juror**, International Call for entries, Redux Contemporary Art Center  
2009 **Curator**, THINGS, EyeLevel Art, Charleston, SC  
2008-09 **Preparator**, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC  
2008 **Preparator**, Contemporary Carolina Collection, M.U.S.C.  
2004-07 **Preparator**, Natalie and James Thompson Gallery, San Jose, CA  
2005-07 **Gallery Coordinator**, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA  
2005 **Instructor of record**, 3-D concepts, San Jose State University

## **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.

In 2009 I transitioned into my current mode of working, under the “Have Sticks Will Travel: World Tour 09-10”. Since this time I have for the most part abandoned traditional studio production in favor of gallery installations. 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 to explore. These installations offer a unique experience where viewers are immersed in an environment created from nothing but the accoutrements of the contemporary to-go coffee cup.