

## Object Alchemy

My work considers the capacity for the poetic concealed within objects. My assemblage sculptures tap this reservoir. They present a precarious balance of contradictions, with a sense of sturdiness and fragility coexisting simultaneously.

I don't sketch ideas, and then go searching for objects to make them. Rather, I collect what catches my eye, attracting my attention to it as possessing possibility to be leveraged to create something compelling.

Guided by intuition, I engage with the objects through playful experimentation, uncovering their hidden potential. The materials are gathered together into a composite form that stirs my curiosity and fires my imagination, leading me to a kind of 'aha' moment.

Exploiting the shapes, colors, textures, and materiality of various collected objects (glass, fiber, wood, rubber, metal, and clay) I explore their conceptual mutability. As a *bowl*, *planter*, *vase*, *post cap*, *rubber cord* and other objects are integrated into these novel forms, their previous assigned labels fade away.

Through them I examine the transformation of meaning that occurs as they meld and take shape in a form that is off script. This happens with a shift in function for each object, from a prescribed use to something altogether different.

These amalgams, recast the overlooked and commonplace. Altered by new intention, they become charged psychic forms that conjure memories and evoke subconscious associations. By activating the imagination, they elicit the viewer's engagement.

There is a certain magic that happens and transfers between the artist and the artwork, between the artwork and the viewer.

Lee Hoag