

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Alana Quinn, 202-334-2415; aquinn@nas.edu

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

New Exhibition by Chris Bathgate to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences (CPNAS) announces “Aesthetic Automation: The Hand Behind the Machine,” an exhibition of six sculptures and drawings by Baltimore-based artist Chris Bathgate. The exhibition opens Aug. 1, 2016, and will remain on view through Feb. 1, 2017, at the National Academy of Sciences.

Chris Bathgate is a self-trained machinist. He has spent more than 15 years adapting metalworking machinery from salvaged and repurposed equipment. His intricately machined sculptures combine his unique metalworking style with a practical approach to engineering complex metal objects. His approach suggests that creativity alone does not drive human imagination, but that it is also inspired by the need to solve problems. For Bathgate, the restraints inherent in his process are a catalyst for his ideas. Bathgate’s sculptures are at once familiar and alien. They suggest utility, but are ambiguous, full of implied yet undefined purpose.

Curator Ron Labaco writes, “Playing with the tension between aesthetic vs. utility, form vs. function, and industrial vs. handmade, Bathgate’s interdisciplinary work lies at the intersection of art, craft, and design. It is an example of how computer-mediated fabrication may bridge the divide between art, craft, and industrial production in the Digital Age.”

Bathgate has been featured in *American Craft Magazine*, *Make Magazine*, the Russian edition of *Popular Mechanics*, *Sculptures Pacific*, and *Best of American Sculpture Volume II*. He was awarded grants in 2007 and 2011 from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. He has also earned recognition in his own hometown, having received the Mary Sawyers Baker Prize in 2014, a Baltimore “B” grant in 2011, and a Creative Baltimore grant in 2008. Bathgate’s works have been exhibited in a variety of museums and galleries, including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the American Craftsmanship Museum in Carlsbad, California, and the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum in Bethesda, Maryland.

“Aesthetic Automation: The Hand Behind the Machine” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required. The exhibition is curated by Ron Labaco and organized by CPNAS. Watch a video about the exhibition at https://youtu.be/Whw2jaK_pEc.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the DC Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. For more information, visit www.cpnas.org. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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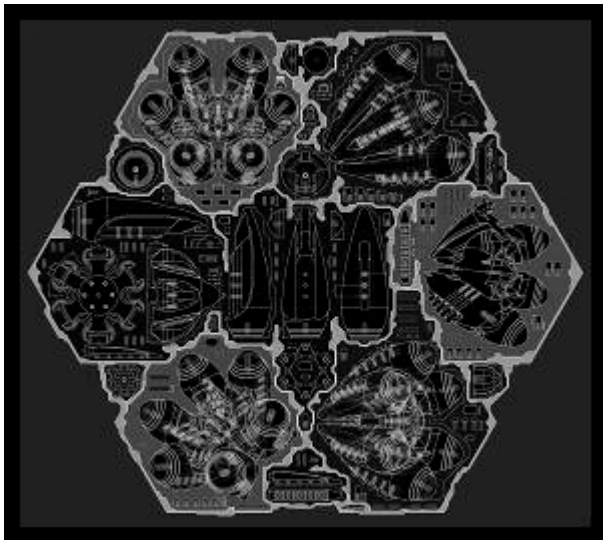
Press images:



RC 511321412, 2016, aluminum and titanium, 8 x 8 x 9 inches



AP 531322421, 2016, aluminum and stainless steel, 15 x 15 x 22 inches



MM 615535332245, 2015, UV print on Dibond aluminum composite material, 38 x 34 inches



MM 615535332245, 2015, anodized aluminum, brass, bronze, stainless steel, 14 x 7 x 7 inches

For print-quality images, contact Alana Quinn, 202-334-2415, aquinn@nas.edu

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