



Ben Quesnel (1987-)

<https://alvarezgallery.com/ben-quesnel/>

Ben Quesnel distorts familiar objects often gathered from tag sales, neighborhood auctions, and community recycling centers. His decontextualized forms challenge viewers to apprehend the meanings that have been attached to these objects and to evaluate them with a new understanding. He alters the location and position of the objects he finds in order to create unexpected discoveries and new experiences for those who encounter his work.

Quesnel experiments with both the psychological and functional meanings that we attach to objects in order to question our interpretations of them. For example, a teddy bear is often reduced to the personal meaning the viewer has towards it, whereas a chair may evoke an impersonal functionality. They could be recognized as opposite forms of reduction, but at what point is a teddy bear no longer a teddy bear? When is it freed from the connotations, we have prescribed to it from infancy to adulthood?

Through his acts of deconstruction and reconstruction, Quesnel sets his viewer up for uncertainty. The forms he creates often take on an uncanny feeling that might cause one to question the role of objects and how they are perceived. Oscillating between playful and morbid, his work often invites the viewer to acknowledge that the things we surround ourselves with will never fully be comprehended. "Things" exist outside of our understanding, yet we try to define and limit their qualities to our own interpretations.

Ben Quesnel is exclusively represented by [Alvarez Gallery](#)