



Furoid Arrangement No. 12, 8.5 x 12.5 x 10 inches, Ceramic, \$650.

Robert Lemming

Artist Bio

Born in 1982, Robert Lemming is a Tulsa native who moved to Northwest Arkansas as a teenager. He studied painting and printmaking at Henderson State University and finished his BA degree with a sculpture emphasis at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville in 2011. His work has been featured in several solo and group shows in venues such as the Historic Arkansas Museum, 21c Museum Hotel, MIXD Gallery, sUgAr Gallery, ASU Beebe and LaLaLand Gallery. He also collaborated with Adam Crosson to create the outdoor sculpture 18 Verticals, 70 Horizontals on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville in 2012. Lemming resides in Madison County Arkansas. He teaches high school art and art history at Farmington High School in Farmington, Arkansas. Lemming previously worked as a Preparator at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and has acted as an exhibition consultant at various venues throughout the region including the Hillside Auditorium at the University of Arkansas.

Artist Statement

I seek to find connections in our comprehension of the world through visual phenomena that we seek to understand but lack the information or intuition to complete. The place between seeing and knowing is elusive and constant from birth onward. Regardless of media or subject, this theme has followed my work.

In 2011, I began collecting furoid-structure fossils from undeveloped gullies and bluff shelters in Northwest Arkansas. Their organic relief patterns suggest something baroque and botanical. My research revealed that they were not related to plant life in the slightest. The fossils were actually the burrows and pathways of ancient arthropods as they searched for food along the seafloor. These had filled with sediment over 300 million years prior.

In the series Furoid Arrangements, I use casts of trace fossils indigenous to our region as a primary element of construction. The innate confusion of what the fossils appear to be and what they actually are mirrors my own investigations into the concept of the familiar yet unknown. I then arrange and assemble them creating entirely new entities that further expand the ambiguities of the original fossils. Previous works in the series involved casts of hot glue or molded paper. With Furoid Arrangement No. 12, I used terracotta to make a series press molded casts of their retracement. Casts are then assembled intuitively with other sculpted elements accounting for transitions. The results are works that appear simultaneously botanical and animal, and are, in their way, a rejuvenation of a relic.