

# OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

## *Home is Where You Hang Your Moustache*

42"x 25"x 5"

Cast iron, reclaimed wood

\$5,000



## Michael LeBlanc

@crystal\_unicorn

### Bio

Michael Louis LeBlanc (he/him/his) is a socially engaged cast metal artist. Beyond his gallery showing art practice, he offers workshops and demonstrations of his cast metal artist practice to teach the public and artist communities STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) concepts and vocational skillsets. For over a decade and a half, he has been exhibiting and presenting research on cast metal arts nationally and internationally. In 2013, the National Conference of Contemporary Cast Iron Arts and Practices awarded him the title of "Mold Master."

### Artist Statement

My role as an artist is to invite the community into the art scenario by metal casting recognizable iconography to allow a participant to have a greater, more personalized experience with art. Access to art should not require an entry barrier such as an education in art criticism or skillset in a certain craft. Access to art in my practice is based on the willingness to observe, participate, and relate from a participant's own experience and perspective.

"Home is Where You Hang Your Moustache" is my declaration that Northwest Arkansas is my home now as a transplant from Georgia but identify as Cajun. This last year, I moved into a hundred year old house where I found the reclaimed wood for the artwork. The house and property already have monumental significance for me such as hosting my wedding this past spring. Cast iron is a humble metal that references utilitarian and the working class, that I personally enjoy versus industrial aluminum or regal bronze. Like my Father before me, the moustache is a personal signifier of who we are and how we carry ourself. I once shaved the moustache off to only wear a faux moustache until it grew back.