

Sculptures by "Cultural Archaeologist" on View at AU's Fosdick-Nelson Gallery

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Alfred, NY -- A collection of work by Brooklyn sculptor Ron Baron will be featured Sept. 7-27 at the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at Alfred University's School of Art and Design. An opening reception and gallery talk will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 7.) Baron's work of the past decade comes out of "my fascination with everyday objects ... a suitcase, an old trophy, a set of books, a dish," Baron says. "I see myself as a cultural archaeologist." He spends so much time collecting throwaway objects that "my studio looks like a thrift store," he says. His collection of objects leads him to ask, "Why do objects that reflect an individual's goals and achievements have such a haunting sense of worthlessness and irony?" Baron's current work also owes much to the 15 years -- about 1970-85 -- he spent as a ceramist. "Much of the formal aesthetic (of) my current work comes directly out of all those years of making pots on the wheel," he says. "But even then, one of my main interests in the ceramic vessel was that archaeologists used pottery to understand past civilizations." Thus he tries to produce "sculptures that reflect who we are as a civilization." Baron holds an MFA from the University of California at Davis and a BS in art from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He has put on many one-person shows and has received more than a dozen honors and awards, including five residencies at the highly competitive Yaddo Artist Colony in Saratoga Springs, NY; and fellowships and residencies from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation. He has also held many commissions, been included in dozens of group shows, published numerous articles, and taught sculpture and art. The Fosdick-Nelson Gallery in AU's Harder Hall is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday 7-9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday 1-3 p.m. Admission is free.