

rest.

2023

Jessica Bell



Jessica Bell is a contemporary sculptor and community artist whose work merges traditional techniques with modern designs. With a focus on themes of race, identity, and societal concerns, her creations resonate deeply. Bell employs an innovative approach, assembling smaller elements to construct expansive installations that convey her messages powerfully.

In her current artistic phase, Bell is passionate about public art that mirrors her personal voyage into motherhood. Her works are not merely visual; they are narratives that engage viewers on multiple levels, encouraging them to delve deeper into the underlying meanings. Employing playful iconography and everyday objects, often overlooked, Bell skillfully entices observers to examine her art more closely, unveiling intricate layers of significance.

Bell's artistic expression is arresting, playful, and luxuriant in its use of materials. Her creative prowess has been recognized with accolades including the Red Bull Artist Grant, the Priscilla Art Award, and the Juanita Craft Artist Residency. Over the span of her career, she has been the beneficiary of numerous artist grants to support her community engagement, attesting to the impact of her contributions to the artistic landscape.

Her artistic influence extends to both public and private spheres, as her pieces grace private collections, including those at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Amli Fountain Place Dallas, Eastern New Mexico University, and Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

Educationally accomplished, Bell holds a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Ceramics and Curriculum Writing. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Art Education and Fine Arts and has certifications in Graphic Design and Welding. Her dedication to nurturing artistic talent is further reflected in her role as a sculptor professor at the Booker T. Washington School of the Performing and Visual Arts.



Rest

“Rest” is a collection of artwork that serves as a visual representation of the artist’s yearning for rest. This body of work commenced when the artist was at the threshold of motherhood, at 9 months pregnant, and culminated when her son reached 9 months old. The collection is a vibrant collection of sculptures, radiating with fun and lively colors while embracing playful designs. At its core, “Rest” is a paradox, skillfully juxtaposing the desire for tranquility with artwork that is everything but restful. These sculptures, marked by their asymmetry, interactivity, and inherent instability, beckon viewers to interact and play. The collection serves as an embodiment of the complex interplay between the longing for rest and the dynamic nature of the artist’ journey into motherhood and her son’s childhood.

Key components of this engaging series include sculptural benches that challenge users to be intentionally still in order to find balance, a series titled “Family” that intricately stacks resting pieces upon each other, and imposing large-scale sculptures thoughtfully reinforced in specific areas to accommodate moments of rest. The vivid colors and whimsical designs that characterize “Rest” draw viewers in, inspiring a sense of joy and curiosity. The interactive nature of the sculptures encourages tactile exploration, inviting observers to become active participants in the artistic experience.

As viewers engage with “Rest,” they are invited to reflect on the intricate dance between rest and play in their own lives. The collection prompts contemplation on the concept of stillness amid life’s dynamic rhythms, the delicate balancing act between restfulness and the urge to engage with the world.



Title: Family - Sculpture Series

Price: \$4,000 each

“Family” is an enchanting series of six free-standing sculptures, each a unique expression of the profound connections within a family, each named after the artist family members. These sculptures are a celebration of the joy and unity found in familial bonds, with a captivating blend of organic ceramic elements and vibrant colors that evoke a playful and heartwarming emotion. The sculptures share some repeating elements, symbolizing the common thread that binds a family together. However, each sculpture possesses its distinctive characteristics, ensuring that no two are alike. This diversity reflects the uniqueness of individual family members while showcasing the strength of their interconnectedness.

Crafted with care and artistic finesse, the sculptures incorporate organic ceramic elements with various textures and finishes. These intricate details add depth and visual interest, inviting the viewer to explore the artwork’s tactile qualities. A gentle touch reveals a playful wobble, engaging the senses and inviting interaction with the art. One of the captivating aspects of the “Family” series is its interactive nature. The sculptures can be disassembled and reassembled, symbolizing the ever-changing dynamics within a family. Just as families evolve and grow over time, these sculptures can adapt, allowing viewers to engage in their transformation.

The series radiates with bright and cheerful colors, evoking a sense of joy and positivity. The vibrant hues mirror the exuberant emotions that surface within a loving family, creating an atmosphere of happiness and warmth. The playfulness of the colors tempts viewers to reach out and touch, further deepening their connection to the artwork. But please do not touch.



Title: Dream - Interactive Bench Sculpture
Price: \$10,000

“Dream” is a large-scale bench sculpture, exuding a playful charm with its vibrant hot pink hue and delightful pops of colors. The elongated “S” curve invites up to three people to sit together or offers ample space for one to lounge comfortably. The bench’s captivating hot pink color and vivid accents serve as an artistic celebration of joy, optimism, and creative imagination. “Dream” features handmade pillows that add an element of interactivity to the sculpture. These magnetic pillows can be playfully moved and rearranged, empowering viewers to personalize their seating experience and engage with the artwork on a tactile level.

“Dream” is versatile, suitable for display in both indoor and outdoor settings. For outdoor installations, the sculpture comes with two attachable plates, ensuring stability and durability, even amidst the elements. Beyond its functional appeal, “Dream” embodies the essence of escapism and the beauty of daydreaming. Its graceful curves and alluring colors invite viewers to take a moment to pause, unwind, and immerse themselves in the boundless realm of their dreams and aspirations. Whether positioned in a public park, art gallery, or as a captivating focal point in a living space, “Dream” serves as an artistic sanctuary, inspiring viewers to contemplate, reflect, and indulge in the magic of their own imaginings.

“Dream” is an embodiment of artistic ingenuity and experiential delight, inviting viewers to indulge in a vivid celebration of colors, form, and playfulness. It is a testament to the transformative power of art to inspire, engage, and kindle the imaginative spark within each viewer. But please do not touch.



Title: Growth & Rest
Price: \$8,000 each

“Growth & Rest” is a captivating set of two sculptures that playfully engage with each other, evoking a harmonious blend of serenity and progress. “Rest,” the navy blue sculpture, exudes a sense of stability and repose, featuring a reinforced area designed for sitting. In contrast, “Growth” stands visually lighter in color, showcasing upward movement symbolizing growth and expansion. With a smaller footprint on the ground, “Growth” seems to defy gravity, suggesting the aspiration for greater heights.

The two sculptures seamlessly interact with each other, symbolizing the unity of restful respite and ambitious growth. When positioned together, they form an elegant oval, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence of these contrasting yet complementary elements. The bound of unity they create speaks to the cyclical nature of life, where periods of rest and growth intertwine to form a harmonious whole. However, the set can be arranged in various configurations, provoking a range of emotions, including tension. In these arrangements, the sculptures spark contemplation on the delicate balance between relaxation and progress, prompting viewers to ponder the interplay of stability and dynamism in their own lives.

“Growth & Rest” has been designed for both interior and exterior display. The attachable plates facilitate easy installation for outdoor spaces, ensuring stability and durability. Beyond their artistic appeal, these sculptures serve as a powerful metaphor for the human experience. They encourage viewers to reflect on the significance of taking moments of rest and embracing growth, recognizing that both are vital aspects of personal development and fulfillment.



Title: Bond
Price: \$12,000

“Bond” is a public sculpture that is a visual representation of the profound bond between a mother and her child. Inspired by the artist’s own journey into motherhood, this artwork embodies the heartfelt sentiment that a child is a mother’s heart existing outside her body.

The sculpture takes the form of a graceful “C,” its curved shape symbolizing the nurturing embrace of a mother’s love. The gentle curve extends outward with a one-foot radius, inviting viewers to engage with its contours and explore the symbolism it holds. A one-foot mint-colored ball, intricately attached to the “C” shape, becomes a central element of the sculpture, reinforcing the concept of an unbreakable bond. This removable ball represents the child, an integral part of the mother’s life.

The mint ball, carefully attached to the “C,” mirrors the enduring connection between mother and child. It speaks to the artist’s personal experience and the universal truth that a child remains an indelible part of a mother’s identity. The words “My son will always be a part of me” echo the sculpture’s sentiment. This heartfelt affirmation encapsulates the eternal link between mother and child, even as they exist as distinct individuals.

“Bond” has been thoughtfully designed for both exterior and interior settings. With removable plates, it is well-suited for outdoor installation, enduring the elements while remaining a symbol of unwavering maternal love. Its sleek, clean lines make it equally suitable for indoor spaces, where it can serve as a contemplative and emotive art piece.



Title: CLB

Price: \$5,000

“CLB” is a mixed media sculpture that is part of a trio named after the artist and her siblings. This artwork embodies a multi-layered narrative, inviting viewers to engage with its forms, textures, and the emotions they evoke. Comprising three stacked cubes, “CLB” presents a thoughtfully crafted composition. The two steel cubes symbolize strength and unity, representing the familial connections that bind siblings together. Nestled between them is a transparent acrylic cube, a window into a mesmerizing world of monochromatic mixed media sculptures.

The transparent acrylic cube acts as both a canvas and a lens, offering a glimpse into the intricate sculptures within which beckons viewers to lean in, explore, and delve deeper, igniting curiosity and contemplation. The base, measuring 15x15x15 inches, serves as more than just a foundation. It’s a cube designed to be sat on, symbolizing the artist’s desire for rest and reprieve. However, by stacking the sculpture in a way that covers the seat, it highlights the artist’s longing for rest.

“Bright and playful” are the defining characteristics of “CLB.” Its vivid colors and dynamic forms mimic the allure of a toy, evoking a childlike sense of wonder. This playfulness extends to its interaction with viewers, heightening the desire to touch, explore, and engage.



Title: SJB

Price: \$5,000

“SJB” is a mixed media sculpture that is part of a trio named after the artist and her siblings. This artwork embodies a multi-layered narrative, inviting viewers to engage with its forms, textures, and the emotions they evoke. Comprising three stacked cubes, “SJB” presents a thoughtfully crafted composition. The two steel cubes symbolize strength and unity, representing the familial connections that bind siblings together. Nestled between them is a transparent acrylic cube, a window into a mesmerizing world of monochromatic mixed media sculptures.

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Title: JLB

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“JLB” is a mixed media sculpture that is part of a trio named after the artist and her siblings. This artwork embodies a multi-layered narrative, inviting viewers to engage with its forms, textures, and the emotions they evoke. Comprising three stacked cubes, “JLB” presents a thoughtfully crafted composition. The two steel cubes symbolize strength and unity, representing the familial connections that bind siblings together. Nestled between them is a transparent acrylic cube, a window into a mesmerizing world of monochromatic mixed media sculptures.

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Title: Sunday
Price: \$3,500

“Sunday” is a sculptural bench, an embodiment of the artist’s yearning for rest. Designed as a haven for intentional stillness, this artwork invites viewers to pause, reflect, and experience a moment of respite. The bench’s composition is distinctive: its top is not affixed to the base, instead, it rests delicately on a bubble-shaped base. This intentional instability urges users to be mindful and deliberate in their movements, fostering a conscious engagement with the act of sitting down and finding stillness. Functional yet deliberately not designed for harsh movement, “Sunday” embodies the delicate balance between utility and contemplation. Its purposeful instability underscores the artist’s vision—rest, in its truest sense, requires a certain intentionality and presence of mind.

The artist’s personal journey during the creation of “Sunday” adds another layer of depth to the artwork. Crafted while the artist was nine months pregnant, the bench encapsulates the spirit of anticipation, creation, and the transformative journey of motherhood. This period of introspection is woven into the very fabric of the bench’s form and essence. Playfully designed in both form and color, “Sunday” exudes a sense of whimsy and joy. Its design mirrors the carefree spirit of a Sunday afternoon, a time often associated with leisure and relaxation. The vibrant hues and distinctive shape are a celebration of life’s simple pleasures and the happiness derived from taking a moment to rest.



Title: Saturday

Price: \$3,500

“Saturday” is a sculptural bench, a testament to the artist’s longing for rest and rejuvenation. Designed to embody the spirit of leisure, this artwork invites viewers to embrace the joy of intentional stillness and relaxation. The bench’s composition is both imaginative and unconventional: the bench top rests freely on a bubble-shaped base, creating an intentional sense of instability. This design choice prompts users to engage with the bench in a deliberate manner, fostering a heightened awareness of the act of resting. While “Saturday” is functional, it is intentionally not designed for abrupt or forceful movements. This deliberate instability serves as a reminder that true rest requires a gentle, intentional approach, underscoring the artist’s vision of creating a space for contemplation.

An added layer of depth is woven into the bench’s creation timeline. Designed and crafted after the artist’s experience of giving birth to her first child, “Saturday” encapsulates the transformative journey of motherhood. This intimate connection infuses the artwork with a sense of renewal, growth, and the discovery of new dimensions of self. The playful design of “Saturday” in both form and color evokes the spirit of a beloved toy. Its whimsical shape and vibrant hues are reminiscent of carefree childhood moments, capturing the essence of Saturdays—often associated with unstructured play and leisure. “Saturday” invites viewers to find delight in the act of resting, to rediscover the magic of leisure, and to immerse themselves in the playful and transformative encounter that this sculptural bench provides.



Title: Friday
Price: \$3,500

“Friday” is a sculptural bench, embodying the artist’s yearning for rest and rejuvenation. Crafted to celebrate the essence of leisure, this artwork extends an invitation to viewers to embrace the beauty of intentional stillness and relaxation. The bench’s distinctive design fosters a connection with the very essence of resting. An unconventional composition defines “Friday”: the bench top delicately rests on a bubble-shaped base, creating an intentional sense of balance and instability. This unique design prompts users to engage with the bench thoughtfully, inviting them to connect with the act of resting in a mindful and present manner.

While “Friday” boasts functionality, it is intentionally not constructed for abrupt or forceful movements. This carefully chosen instability serves as a reminder that genuine rest requires a gentle and intentional approach. This feature underscores the artist’s commitment to creating a space for quiet contemplation and relaxation. The sculptural bench’s creation timeline adds an intriguing layer of significance. Designed and brought to life after the artist’s experience of becoming a mother for the first time, “Friday” encapsulates the transformative journey of motherhood. This intimate connection infuses the artwork with a sense of renewal, growth, and the newfound dimensions of self.

In both form and color, “Friday” radiates playfulness and joy, akin to a cherished toy. Its vibrant hues and whimsical shape evoke memories of carefree moments, capturing the spirit of Fridays—an anticipation of leisure and the promise of a well-deserved break. A distinct feature sets “Friday” apart as the final piece in the series: the bubble base reaches up and over the bench top. This daring design choice pushes the boundaries of conventional aesthetics, symbolizing the artist’s exploration of rest as a dynamic and transformative experience.



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