

Aaron's Broken Truck Cap Handle AKA: "Bronze Monument in Columbus, Ohio"

The plastic handle to open a truck cap broke into three parts. Asking local cap dealers about the possibility of finding a replacement, got a resounding "not a chance". The cap is at least 30 years old and likely manufactured in California, nearly 2,500 miles away. Nowhere on the forest green painted exterior or the light grey pleather interior does it have a brand-name. If the cap closed you'd be locked out.

A bronze pour was about to happen at the studio. The handle was re-glued back together. Becca helped with a food safe material that turns into liquid when microwaved and hardens into a jelly when it cools. We casted the handle into paraffin wax because it's melting temperature wouldn't melt the mold. The wax was then used to cast the new handle in Bronze. After cleaning it up to fit and function it was installed early 2020, it's still working (Sunday Oct 24th, 2021) and the bronze has turned green.

Lydia's Shattered Shotglass from Czech Republic.

-I had bought it as a souvenir shop near Wenceslas Square. Relatively simple, it seemed like the most tasteful option to me among the many tchotchkes available.

While reminding and asking others for broken things to fix or repair, Lydia had something. A recently dropped shot glass. It was one of the only things brought back after studying for a semester in Prague, Czech Republic.

The pieces still had remnants of sticky brown alcohol (Lydia says it was a mixture of soy sauce and honey for a tofu dish) which she handed off in a hummus container. Bri, a skilled glassblower, advised that we could heat up the shards and make it into something else. We could only use the amount of glass from the shot glass because different types of glass won't mix well and shatter when cooled. We heated up a "punty" (a metal rod) and picked up the heated shards of glass and rolled it into a marble. What once read "Czech Republic" is swirled and fragmented, revealing its process of transformation and a reminder of what it once was. Lydia now stores the marble on her dresser with a collection of other small objects from different places throughout her life.

Brianna's "Cool Date" Cooler with Broken Handle

I remember seeing Bri's cooler in the basement of her house on East Lane ave, not fully understanding why it was out of commission and unusable. It was not until we were preparing to move in together that Bri asked if it was time to finally get rid of it. Bri had bought a new cooler for her drive from Calgary back to Columbus during the pandemic. The broken cooler had been replaced.

The broken cooler had been passed down from her mother and was possibly bought by Bri's grandmother but this needs to be confirmed. On the top of the cooler it reads: THERMOS Cool Date. The Cool Date is a "house" style cooler that splits open at where the two tops meet. Each of the tops have handles that interlock with one another to become one handle when the Cool Date is closed. Essentially when you hold the Cool Date by the interlocked handles it's tops stay together. The broken handle makes it impossible to carry and keep the Cool Date closed.

-As a child I do not remember having a stroller. My mother would take my brother and I around the community, to the lake, the playground, the park, everywhere, in a large plastic wagon. I remember leaving the wagon and running alongside my mother for stints of time only to get tried and try to convince my brother to trade spots with me. Being the youngest my mom would usually tell my brother it was my turn to be pulled along in the wagon. Spewing from my brother's mouth some large and elaborate excuse to stay in the wagon, even at six years old he could argue anyone out of anything.

Two kids, one cooler, one wagon. In the end as we grew older and even then, my mom would only pull one kid, one cooler, and one wagon. One kid always walked, except on the rare occasion of spending all day at the lake. Which ended up in one cooler, one wagon and two kids piled on top of each other asleep.

In my memory the wagon was blue, and the cooler was the Thermos cool date. In recollection of my mother, who had and still has many more years of memories than I. The wagon was blue, but so was the cooler. When I asked my mother why she was so certain that it wasn't the Thermos cool date in the wagon, she said, "how do you think the two of you both fit in the wagon? One in the wagon and one half on the cooler." However, having convinced myself, and not having the cooler from the wagon, I will continue to believe that the Thermos cool date was in the wagon with us kids for all those years.

Back to the question: "Should we keep this?"

-Let's take a loss on this one

I answered quickly but took a moment....

Realizing this was another plastic handle to be replaced.

Bronze again?

Aluminum, it is a light metal that can be used to insulate, although its insulating capabilities might not matter as a handle.

Aren't older coolers are made out of aluminum? on second thought, that's not right.

The broken handle was re-glued together, and a rubber mold was made. The micro-crystalline wax handle was turned into aluminum using the lost wax method. Because of the design of the handle, the aluminum casting broke at the same spot where the plastic handle broke. The handle gets quite thin and becomes one plane for a moment without any supporting structure of a corner. Andrew Newbold the shop tech at Sherman Studio Arts Center (very carefully!) welded the two parts of the handle back together. It was then cleaned up and grinded down to snap into the Cool Date. (it even made a clicking sound)

WOW IT FITS -no glue needed™

Maggie's Stowaway Ceramic Jar

After replacing the truck handle and working on Bri's cooler handle (is this just a handle project?) I was certain there was something important in asking for broken objects from others. I had been asking large groups and nobody seemed to take it seriously or that the offer to repair objects wasn't directed towards them. How does one move forward and reach others out from their inner circle?

We all gravitate towards specific ways of dealing with things and materials.
We all have our own tendencies and values regarding different types of objects.
Give me a problem to solve that isn't my choice.

Lets hear your story and see what you value.

Let me provide this service.

Are all artists self serving?

That's too nihilistic, yet

I don't remember the last time my perspective has changed because of art.

Let's just do something.

So, I had a sculpture critique that I wasn't too excited about. Zoom (circa 2020 (Covid-19))

They felt over-presentational and the critiques weren't helping.

I had a huge panic attack before my critique, why even do it?

-Could we all share a broken object that we have been holding onto?

Maggie brought up her broken jar. Her quite plain and white ceramic jar was given by her mother when she moved to Columbus, Ohio. Slipping the jar into the moving van, Maggie never knew that her mother had given this gift until finding the stow-away jar broken. Almost three years later Maggie was showing us all this vessel.

-It kind of just moves around the house

Maggie stubbornly held onto this cheap object for either its sentimentality, odd story, or both.

-Do you want it to be put back together?

We agreed on a kintsugi method of using glue infused with mica powder to piece it together and asked her mother to decide on the color.

-Purple... probably because she knows it's my favorite color

Mailbox at Highland st.

Bri, Bradley and I moved into the first floor of a house in Victorian Village. Amber and Yildiz, an arts grad and dance grad, live on the second floor. The mailbox for the house was an apartment style box with five separate sections that opened with keys we didn't have. It was just left open and if it ever rained all the mail would get wet. It lived on the ground in front of the house.

I was trying to get my swiss citizenship back but needed papers mailed to me from my grandmother, she refused to send such important documents until I had a working mailbox. I wanted to make a classic post mount mailbox for the first and the second floor. Bradley found one without a front door to use and I took apart our apartment style box, cut a large piece of it and bent it into another mailbox. Andrew Newbold and I laser cnc'd into a flat piece of bronze, left by a previous grad, into a flag for the mailboxes. With two mailboxes on one post, one box has "#1" written for the first floor, and the other box has "all the rest" for Amber and Yildiz. The post office has about 12 apartment numbers in its database for our house.

I told my grandmother about the new mailbox, I received my documents from Switzerland and a small Swiss calendar. I opened it to JANUAR but had no magnets to put it on the fridge (I don't like pinning or nailing calendars). So it was left on the kitchen table.

Douglas the Magnet Guy from Craigslist

After posting on craigslist offering to fix and repair things for free, an email from a man named Douglas offered magnets taken out of computers as material to fix things. We met outside his home

-Wow what a great truck handle.

-Thanks!

He handed off a ziplock bag of magnets that were still in their odd shaped metal plates, none were alike.

For a year now he has been salvaging thrown away computers and either selling, recycling, or giving away the parts. He's a geologist for the state. We went to his backyard to check out his greenhouse being built as an addition to his house. We stood in the snow looking at his tomatoes and agreed that I'd come by in the Summer to see it finished. The magnets that are strong enough hang the calendar from my grandmother.

FEBRUAR

Valerie the Giver from Craigslist

Another response from craigslist but it took a lot of texting back and forth to figure out that they didn't want any objects fixed or repaired, but to take their repair materials instead:

-okay, two sacks of fabrics and each with a broken thing,
some broken jewelry, with lots of beads and trims and string, some sewing needles, some sari fabric

there's some belting and buckles, buttons...

lots of items good for costumes or fun small projects...

soon as I rest, headed to my shop to see what else I can rustle up there...

threw in a bundle of suede of various colors, figured you could repair things with that, maybe

I agreed to take things off her hands. She brought many boxes and bags of stuff. I somewhat regretted this transaction as soon as it occurred. We put it all in my truck to quarantine. I asked what she did for a living. She gave me her card and described making a lot of money selling laplooms for 25 a pop at Ren-Fairs. She had more stuff to give next week, I told her I couldn't take as much next time.

-I forgot to give you the pocket knives...

and do you want more small pieces of wood?

-sure I'll probably use some of that wood for backyard social distance fires if that's ok

She never replied back.

Amber's Grandmother's tile from Spain

Another ceramic item with a missing piece.

This could start becoming difficult as more of these ceramic things show up.

Using the same materials and processes that have previously been used for other objects may become a bore.

What material should be used to stand in and replace the missing fragment?

*photo sent of tile and piece of glass.

-I want to mirror it...

What do you think?

-Yes I love that!

-yay! I'm appreciating this tile, it's such a beaut

-I know it's stunning -so happy it will be connected again!

I hand mirror a glass fragment.

Dave's Hand Belt Sander missing a "T" shaped handle

-If you want to repair it I have it at the wex. Or I can drop it at your studio

-It's on the wire shelf just inside the door just buzz the call box

-That's ok if it takes a while I have a second one

-Hey, sounds good. I am in Cleveland all week, but you can leave it with Time who manages the dock.
Thanks!

-Not yet. Soon I hope

-I think the next one you should make look like knuckles

Brett's Ripped Pair of Jeans

*video sent of soapy blue water

-Pulping your jeans...
Worst quality videoshare to boot

*Brett Loved Worst quality videoshare to boot

-Hahaha...
That's awesome...
I would love to learn the process...
Old paper was made from dirty linen undies

-Yur dirty linens inspired me...
Well I'll be beating em all day today. I got the press running and figuring out how to do it all as I go...
Probably pressing paper next week Sunday/Monday

-Haha cool...
Let me know...
I might be free to witness or help

-Yo I got paper for u. gotta take photos of it but got like 30 sheets of 20x16 to hand off this next week?

*photo sent of paper
-small test sheet

-Woahh...
That's so cool...
Thank you for doing this...
I'll be around next week. I also have to pick up scrap metal from Sherman...

-No problem!!! I'm excited to see what you might do with it in the future...
and let me know I'll try to take photos of it by the end of this weekend.

Kim's Statue Missing an Eyelash.

I was texted an image of a small statue of a woman's head missing an eyelash

-Hi Aaron would this be something you'd be interested in repairing thanks Kim

I agreed to replace the eyelash and pick it up. Kim left the statue in a bag on the front porch. I picked it up

-Saw it was gone assume you got it -Yes I literally just picked it up

-Great. Wow your like a ninja, didn't even hear you and our ring doorbell didn't pick you up. (laughing crying emoji)

-Haha wow, am I real?

-Questionable for sure.

The eyelash is a lot harder to re-create than expected. I've tried clay, glass and epoxy. It's just so tiny and detailed, it's a miniature eyelash. Could I make a mold from the other eyelash? I'd rather not take any chances of damaging the rest of her.

E-779 INARCO CLEVE OHIO 1962

Is stamped on the bottom.

The factory or distributor of this statue designed in Japan was in Cleveland Ohio I haven't texted Kim in months. Being in Columbus Ohio there must be another statue I could find in a store, or at least one with the same eyelash as her. I photograph the statue and a closeup of the eyelash was brought for reference.

What Goes Round Thrift Shoppe, Goodwill (Wooster location), MCC Connections, Mission: Thrift Orrville, Treasure Chest, The Bomb Shelter, Einstein's Attic, Classic Additions, Goodwill (Greater Cleveland location), Common Threads, Avalon Exchange, Cache at Church of the Covenant.

-Hey there, I know it's been a long time, but I've finally been able to find a replacement eyelash! There are two options to replace. A gold or a black one. Your statue has black eyelashes. It could either have both black or one black and the other gold. Let me know and I'll replace the eyelash this month.

-oh hi. Black is good. thanks.

Surgery

-I replaced the eyelash I can drop it off whenever you'd like. -Anytime is okay -Just dropped it off, thanks for letting me repair it! -It looks better than the original. THANK YOU.

After harvesting the eyelash from the statue with the same black eyelash as the statue Kim gave me, another statue with a gold eyelash is harvested. The gold eyelash is donated to the statue that donated to Kim's statue.

What's next for these two? One with a gold and a black eyelash, one still missing a gold.