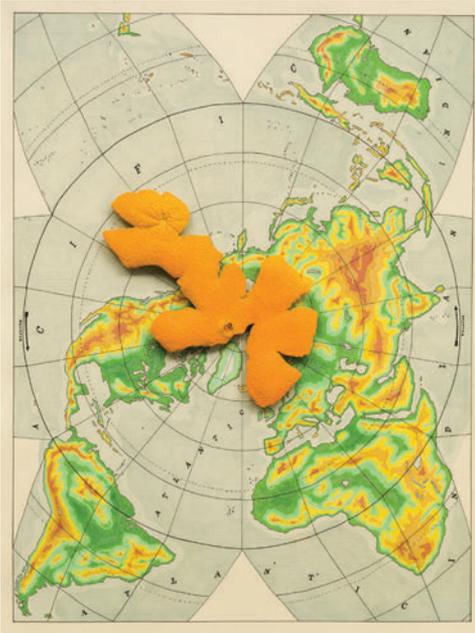


# A Periodic Table

Conor Backman and Taylor Baldwin



**THE SILBER ART GALLERY**

Sanford J. Ungar Athenaeum | Goucher College



# A Periodic Table

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Silber Gallery is pleased to present *A Periodic Table*, an exhibition that pairs the work of Conor Backman and Taylor Baldwin. A painter and a sculptor, respectively, Backman and Baldwin both use their work to explore questions of value, tropes, and traditional methods within their medium and, ultimately, the academic role of the artist. At once representational and conceptual, neither artist's work is exactly as it seems. The whole is both a singular form and a display of its components that, in turn, supply a deeper narrative.

# Conor Backman

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Conor Backman presents a series of painted works, some within the traditional rectangle and others that cross into the language of sculpture. Trompe l'oeil imagery is often combined with sculptural interventions that examine the painting as a window or point to the different structures of value at play in each piece. Quick, uncanny gestures, such as the masquerading of an orange peel as faux continent, are meticulously made permanent through casting the object and painting it to look like the organic original. Here the role of the artist as humorist meets the role of the artist as drafter, a vital craftsperson in the history of understanding our world. This illusion of spontaneity and comedic pairing balances equally within this work with the skills required to create the accurate facsimile. Each of his works sets up a similar set of questions about art's role in our past and place in our present.

*The Thought of the  
Thoughtless*

2017

oil on steel

12" x 16" x 2"



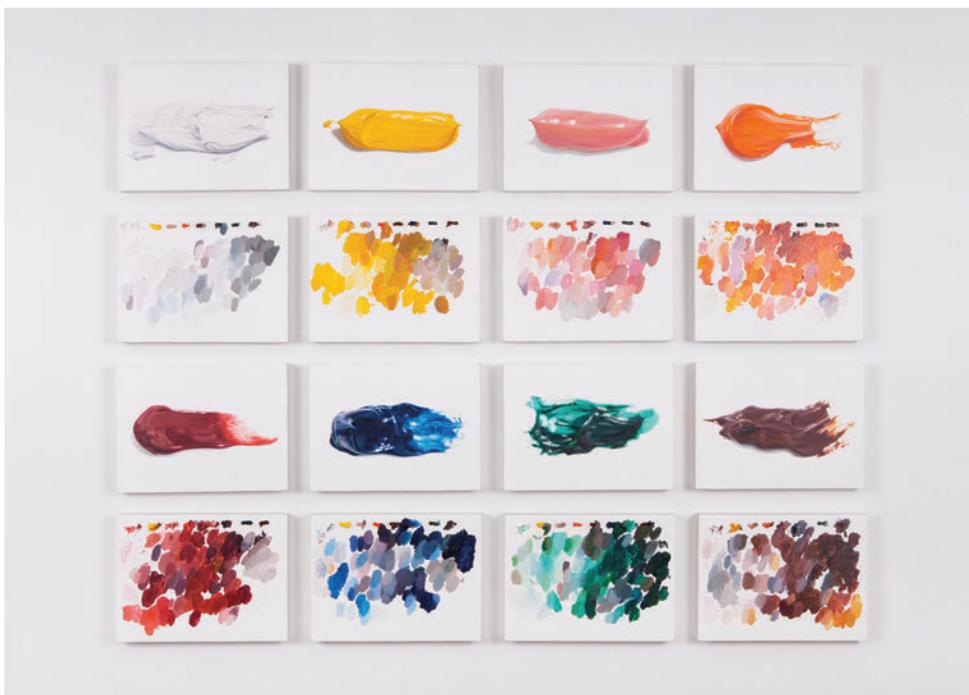


*The Sun Never Sets*

2015

ink on paper,  
cast aquaresin,  
acrylic paint

28" x 22" x 2"



*Painting Palettes*

2016

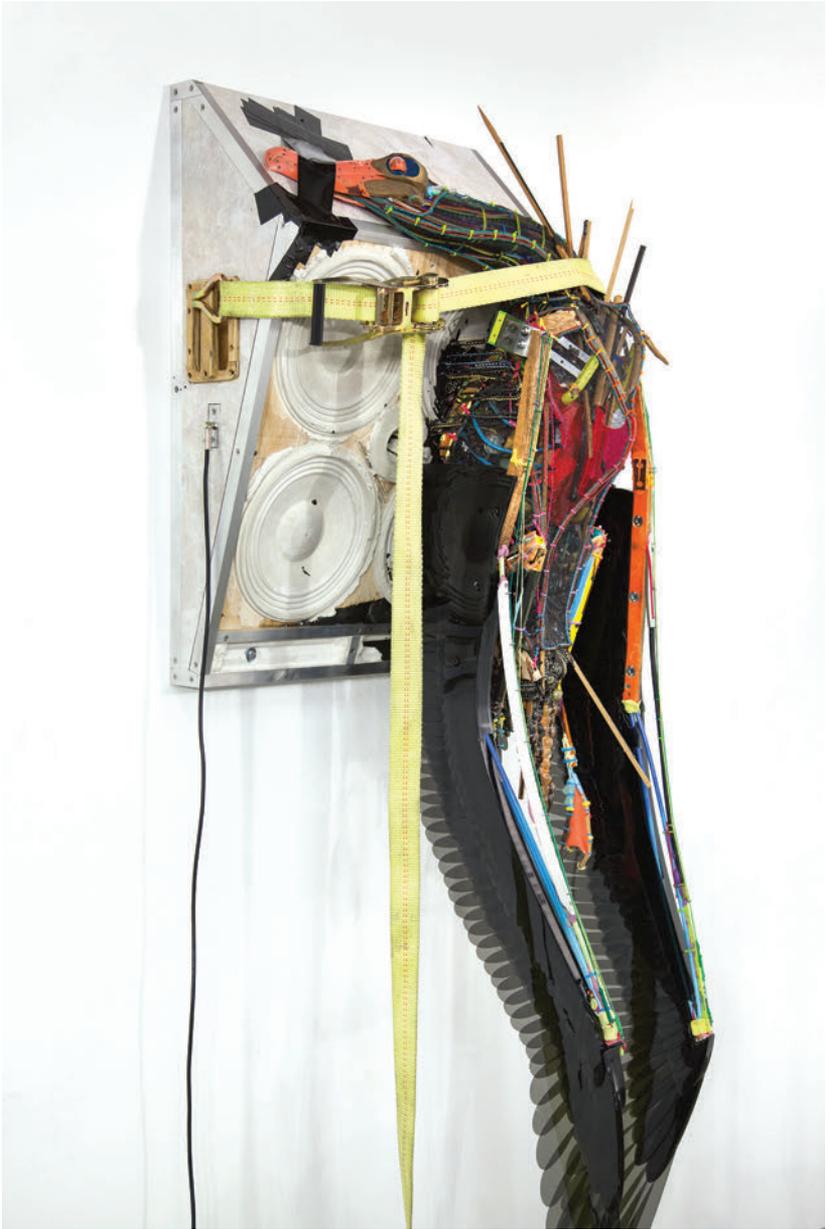
oil on canvas

8 parts, each 12" x 16"

# Taylor Baldwin

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Taylor Baldwin's sculptures engage with different belief structures and forecasting methods, using each as a lens through which to evaluate the human condition. Materials in these works act as constellations or clouds of particulates that coalesce into a diagrammatic image. Broader questions about the pace of consumerism, effects of capitalism, and the precariousness of the natural ecosystems are underscored by the minutiae of the objects and processes used to depict them. In *The haruspex*, a massive wandering albatross seems to dangle, affixed by its beak and neck with tape, from a speaker. A ratchet strap encircles the body, with large black wings limp and gravity bound. Upon closer inspection, traffic cones, zip ties, garden hose, and plastic fruits reveal themselves as some of the many ingredients that make up the nearly extinct creature. Entrails point to the prevalence of petroleum-based materials in the Anthropocene, and humans' participation in their destruction. In each of Baldwin's pieces, titles and material lists provide a key to determine meaning, recognize the underlying research, and engage with the political and social power of art.



*the haruspex*



*the oracle*



*the plague year*

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*the haruspex*

2013-2017

stolen traffic cone, brass screws, maple, co2 cartridge from starbucks, drywall screws, magic sculpt, magic smooth, zip ties, garden hose, bicycle break cable, salvaged electrical wire, vinyl tubing, used weed trimming cable, masonry line, ribbed hose, acrylic tube, acrylic rod, acrylic sheet, epoxy resin, national grid barricade, driftwood, steel, aluminum, mop handle, broom handle, expandable urethane, ball chain, eye hook, plastic beads, fiberglass driveway markers, car antenna, stainless screws & nuts, branch, thrift store plastic bin, sculptamold, plywood, dowels, mixing sticks, antique flooring nail, enamel paint, retail display hooks, sea styrofoam, paracord, window screening, costume jewelry, pinecones, toothpicks, toothbrush, broken drumsticks, clock hands, cement, sheathing, security fasteners taken from nyc metro subway, ratchet strap, 1/4 in. audio cable, 1/4 in. audio jack, gaffer's tape, lab bolts, laminate, fake grapes, fake mango, fake bread, fake lemons, fake limes, fake cherries, limited edition 7-eleven metal slurpee™ straws.

96" x 32" x 24"

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*the oracle*

2016

trunk from christmas tree found curbside in may, gold chain, epoxy resin, colorant, machine axel, t-nut, washer, bnc-to-tree connector, coax cable, asphalt, wood screws, aluminum, poplar, urethane adhesive, laminate, cabinet speaker found curbside in january, epoxy putty, speaker, plastic lemon and ice from guangzhou economic and technological development zone, clear urethane resin, 4-40 socket screws, 3 pennies in final moving yang line configuration, silver paint marker, audio component amplifier, audio adaptor cables, styrofoam, sculpy bust of oetzi the iceman, copper leaf, led element from bathroom fixture in condemned home, screw covers, 120v wall sockets, light switch from bathroom in condemned home, grounded power cable and cable clamp from scrapped pc hardware store register, furniture pads,

particle board from curbside furniture, kombucha bottle from superstitiously saved since 2014, reconfigured graffiti-ed office desk left in studio from diy venue 'supertomb', corian trim from trident dumpster, reconditioned hitachi v-202f oscilloscope, lag bolts, rigid urethane foam, polystyrene display foot from shuttered show store in burlington vt, driftwood, bnc-to-rca adaptor, custom rca-to-1/8" audio cable, 'beats by dre' headphone cable from ex's last christmas gift, styrofoam lemon from hobby lobby, dresser knob from janelle's dresser, anatomical skeleton arm bracket, 'happu-store ancient i ching coins prosperity protection feng shui lucky charm' from eshylala store, 12v 5a dc power supply, 12v 3a power supply, zip ties, plastic skeletal arm traded with corey for as-yet-undelivered work, black flocking, mannequin hand, pipe cleaners found on street outside adult care facility in richmond va, copper foil from barb, vintage leather shoe laces from irish setter and red wing, plywood, c-channel, laminate stripped from register kiosk behind am/pm in memphis tn, urethane putty, coaxial wall plate, 12" coaxial cable, 1/4-20 knobs, carriage bolts, cable-mounts, electronic components, arduino uno, raspberry pi 3, greatscott color organ pcb, 7" hdmi monitor w/ backpack, 12" hdmi cable, 1-way mirrored plexiglass, mirrored plexiglass, p95 acrylic, clear and colored acrylic scrap, brass screws from warehouse liquidation, drywall screws, stainless steel screws, double-sided tape, super-bright led, led strips, tin foil, time-series of charles minard's flow map of napolean's russian invasion and successive attempts to improve upon it sources from google images (1869-2015), drum stick broken in personal injury and later used as stirring stick for the period of 2-years, 36-second video loop of planed wood grain, "i ching" by john blofeld, "i ching" by sam reifler, "the i ching, or, book of changes" by richard wilhelm and cary f. baynes, "the complete i ching" by taoist master alfred huang, "i ching" by james legge, "the i ching: the book of answers" by wu wei, "i ching" by kerson and rosemary huang, "the i ching or book of changes: a guide to life's turning points" by brian browne walker, "the taoist i ching" by thomas cleary, "the classic of changes: a new translation of the i ching" by richard john lynn, "the taoist i ching" by lui i-ming, "i ching: the essential translation of the ancient chinese oracle and book of wisdom" by john minford.

96" x 36" x 36"

*the plague year*

2014

wood glue, prehistoric whale ear bone, cymbal stands, coconut shell, epoxy resin, magic sculpt, walnut, climbing handhold, purple heart, yoga mat, salvaged gas pipe, cholla skeleton, driftwood, corian, candle, acrylic, heart pine, steel, plexiglass, urethane, traffic cone, axe handle, drum stick, peace pipe, plywood, garden hose, screws, aluminum, makeup applicator, lead, screwdriver, zip ties, limited edition slurpee straw, driftwood, plaster, banister cap, tradeshow display, geodes, hdpe, vinyl tile, mop handle, offcut from dan's sculpture, rainbow strap, ball chain, masonry line, fiberglass driveway markers, enamel, trophy eagle, resin mixing sticks, maple, birch, ash, 1972 kennedy silver dollar, broom handle, melted solo cup, pipe cleaners, rosewood, door stop, beads, rocks, copper slag, skeleton toe, pen nib, thread spool, coat hanger, co2 cartridge, table top, drill vice, bent spoon, mel's toothbrush left in bathroom after breaking up.

67" x 48" x 48"

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*A Periodic Table* asks its audience to be participatory, rather than passive, in the viewing experience. The work is generous in its offerings but encourages careful observation and discovery. Together, Backman and Baldwin's works demonstrate both impeccable artisanship and a dedication to their art practice as a platform for research and inquiry.

— Alex Ebstein  
director of exhibitions & curator

# A Periodic Table

Conor Backman and Taylor Baldwin

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September 3 - October 13

Artists' reception:

Monday, September 9, 6-9 p.m.

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## THE SILBER GALLERY

Sanford J. Ungar Athenaeum

### DIRECTIONS

Baltimore Beltway, I-695,  
to exit 27A. Make first left  
onto campus.

### GALLERY HOURS

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday – Sunday  
410-337-6477

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The Silber Gallery program is funded with the assistance of grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Baltimore County Commission on the Arts and Sciences.

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