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## John Barandon

Born 1948, Atlanta, GA

John Barandon is a self-taught sculptor who, in 2014, retired after fifty years of working in the sheet metal and steel fabrication trade. He is, however, not new to making art and exhibited at The Signature Shop from 1986 to 1992 and at Sidewalk Studio in Virginia Highlands and Odyssey Studio in Buckhead from 1986 to 1987. He also exhibited at Shirley Fox Gallery and Gallery South, both now closed.

Referring to the styles he has explored, John says that he jumped from “lily pad to lily pad for the last forty years” but finally landed on a lily pad where he intends to stay put. John sculptures are bronze fused over steel armatures and bases made of nails. He says that his art is a testimony to the people that have touched and influenced him.



John's father was from New York City and met John's mother in Atlanta through the USO and decided to stay in Atlanta after World War II, giving John, what he calls, “a northern accent for half of my life.” In 1977, John's father died and John says his world changed. His first sculpture, a skeleton titled “Death Grip”, was made after this. Then, in 1979, John built a studio at his home. In 1983, one of John's young co-workers committed suicide and he says the world changed again. Other changes came about when his sister's daughter was killed by a train and in 1999, when a co-worker hung himself. The changes weren't over an in 2001, his sister was found dead in her home; in 2004, a lifelong friend was murdered and in 2013, a co-worker of twenty-three years dropped dead.

Speaking of how he gives life to metal, he explains: “Recently, me and my son were pressing a U-joint in a drive shaft and my vice broke. After 38 years, it just broke in half. Me and that old vice have been through so much work together. So many years. My son told me to give it a new life; so I'll make a work of art out of it and it will live forever. I'll find a way to do that. And if I don't, my son will.”

### Exhibitions:

2017

Line & Form: John Barandon & Melissa Mason, TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA  
TEW Galleries Salon Show, Atlanta, GA  
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