GUT GALLERY

Artist Statement | JESSE HICKMAN

I am most successful on the days that I trust my intuition, I don't overthink while working, and I step out of my own way.

What started some years ago, cutting apart my empty coffee bags, priming, and using them as drawing paper for three-dimensional works, has become my primary focus as works unto their own. In them, I examine issues from my past, goals for my future, and mostly where I am on a given day.

Growing up, educated and starting my career in Chicago, the influence of Outsider Artists has from my start, been a part of my thinking and making. Using "found objects" (my used coffee bags) as my ground, and materials like tar, carbon paper rubbings, house paint, charred stick charcoal, are my favored adopted materials. I also sometimes use unprimed canvas, traditional oil paint and oil sticks.

Erasure is fundamental in the coffee bag works. The traces of discarded marks create a layer of texture and history to these pieces. I erase all of my initial marks prior to making the completed work.

The titles come from random thoughts that drift through my head while working and become an integral part of my process.

I live simply and I work daily. Routine, discipline, confidence and acceptance are my foundation, and I embrace the change and growth that results from adhering to these principles. The crux is, I believe in myself and in the work that I make.