

# Jeffrey T. Baker

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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey T. Baker situates his multi-disciplinary practice inside a complex web of what could be called the contemporary sublime. His visual world is simultaneously radiant with light and stained with a film of longing and decay, but it is always compiled from an overwhelming awe at the complexity of creation.

Keenly aware of the historical precedents for both painting and photography, Baker's art occupies a challenging locus between the two traditions. Strictly speaking, his works are neither paintings nor photographs, but they are most certainly photo-based. And yet they are clearly antithetical to the multiplicity often associated with photography, as each image is a handcrafted composite of pigment, toner, and wax put down in layers that react and respond to each other.

While fascinated by narrative, he eschews any sort of contrived relationship between the works; preferring that the viewer construct their own stories from the glowering landscapes, teetering structures, decayed faces of antiquity, and oddly cropped portraits that are hung in salon-style groupings across the gallery walls. Many of Baker's images are derived from photographs he has taken over the years with a wide variety of cameras, both digital and traditional, while others are the cast off ephemera of families and businesses consumed by time.

Baker obtained his BFA from Portland's Oregon College of Art and Craft (OCAC) and then went on to work in education for eight years as a classroom teacher. Much of his artwork in the past decade has dealt with the contextual and subjective nature of visual imagery, especially in a rapidly advancing digital culture. In 2011 he returned to OCAC as Community Programs Coordinator, where he presently guides the college's non-degree granting adult and youth programming. His work is held in numerous private collections and the City of Portland's Portable Works Collection.