

Craig Nutt

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The themes that I am exploring are as diverse as my personal interests. I am interested in contrasts and juxtapositions of the familiar and the unexpected, the real and the fantastic, the understated and the obsessive, the ancient and the space-aged, nature and artifice, art and craft. My work is concerned with function, both in the literal sense, and as an element to be played with, altered, or skewed.

My early work, a mix of painting, assemblage, and free-improvised music was relatively unstructured and unconcerned with craftsmanship. A job as an

antiques restorer was my first serious exposure to furniture and it awakened in me a new appreciation for the ethic of craftsmanship. As my work moved toward more structured and finely crafted objects, one challenge was to retain some of the freedom and spontaneity I enjoyed in the earlier work.

I think of a box as something to contain an idea. It may be a large box or a small box and likewise the idea may be large or small. Call it “thinking inside the box.” The ideas that seem to work best for me are those that cause some internal friction, such as: conflicting or seemingly unrelated ideas or images; unresolved issues of function; imaginary solutions to real problems; or real solutions to imaginary problems.

