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## Half True - All Real

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## HALF TRUE – ALL REAL by Matthew G. Blache

## A THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of

The Graduate College at the University of Nebraska

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements

For the Degree of Master of Fine Art

Major: Art

Under the Supervision of Professor Mo Neal

Lincoln, Nebraska

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Half True – All Real

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University of Nebraska, 2013

Adviser: Mo Neal

I love making things up.

I am a fabricator of moments: a storyteller who relies on construction rather than incantation. As a child, making was labor, holding ladders, watching, and helping

carry heavy equipment. It was a requirement, a rite. Making was also playful -

stacking something on top of something to make something. That something

could be anything. There was, I learned, a satisfaction in bringing an object into

the world. It was a marker of my existence.

"Half True-All Real" is a convergence of my compulsion to make things and my

desire to give form to my narrative, which would otherwise be verbal and

temporary. It transforms stories into relics, and allows me to relive, recreate and

rebuild my past.

I am drawn to typical items, to the stuff that fulfilled a strictly utilitarian purpose.

Nothing is simple or ordinary; these objects act as narrative beacons, seamlessly

dovetailing with my memories. They are symbols embodying a time, place, mood

or idea. How can these ordinary things be remade, manipulated and/or contorted

to the point where it still has the implications of its original intended use, but lacks

its original objectness? Where is the line when an object becomes a thing?

This is important because things and stories are similar. Both are limber, easily

changed at the discretion of their creator. They can be pushed, pulled,

exaggerated or erased for effect. A good story is honest, but it's never completely

true – and it shouldn't be. If someone believes something they hear, it could've happened, even if it didn't.

Telling a story is like tinkering – both require finding relationships between things that are loosely connected, but can somehow work together. Both are reconstructions; both change with time.

I love making things up.