

Doug McGlumphy

Regular Guy Monuments

During the mid-1990s my work involved sculpture comprised of salvaged architectural components housed in elaborate reliquary-type structures. These pieces celebrated historic architecture and encouraged its preservation. After purchasing a neglected family farm in the late 1990s, my work turned to actual historic preservation of the built environment. *Regular Guy Monuments* extends this sustained exploration of historic architectural materials.

The concept behind this series dates to a family vacation to Washington, D.C., when I visited friends working on Capitol Hill, and toured the many monuments to our nation's leaders. During this trip I became intrigued with the notion that our government and its heroes are elevated and memorialized primarily through the efforts and skills of the ordinary citizen. And although there are certainly memorials to the bravery of ordinary citizen-soldiers in times of national conflict, I felt that little attention has been given to the daily contributions of the "regular guy." Through this series I pay tribute to the ordinary worker.

I intentionally use the ancient Egyptian obelisk form for my tributes to the regular guy for its power references. Perhaps the best known obelisk in the United States is the Washington Monument, arguably most noted for its association with government, strength, and stability. By rendering my own monoliths in materials found in the architecture and daily lives of the working class, the idea of the ordinary merges with the symbolism of the obelisk. As a series, the work both gestures to the current disenfranchised mood of the American worker and highlights their contributions to a still viable way of life. And while their scale and general form speak to the monumental, the materials, craftsmanship, and details suggest the many attributes of the regular guy.

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