

JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE FOR CRAFT 2021 MASTERS OF THE MEDIUM



David Harper Clemons

“My Studio work has always been an extension of the experiences I have internalized and I dissect my experiences and tease out greater awareness of the impact levied by each experience. My practice has become deeply introspective as probing my understanding of loneliness, friendships, creativity, southern culture, fatherhood, and finding a new sense of place and redefined identity have been my source material. This personal exploration has been difficult at times as I do not always feel I have the adequate tools or emotional distance to gain insights into some of these uncomfortable mental places.”

David was born in El Paso, Texas and spent much of his life in Austin, Texas. Initially he began his undergraduate career attending Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, pursuing a degree program for Biology Art. He attended the program for two years before returning to Austin to complete his BFA at the University of Texas in Austin, with a primary emphasis in painting. He earned his MFA in Metalsmithing in 2007 from San Diego State University. David taught in the art department at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas for 10 years. During 8 of those years he was responsible for creating and heading the Metalsmithing and Jewelry Department. In 2018 he relocated to Penland, North Carolina to dedicate his time to be an independent artist and workshop instructor. Much of his work embraces the craft of Metalsmithing and it's collected history of techniques and objects. The resulting works rendered in metal, mixed media, and handmade artist books are vehicles to communicate ideas surrounding identity, narrative, and forays into material and process-based work. He has exhibited in numerous exhibitions including: *Craft in America: Expanding Traditions*, *Different Tempers: Jewelry & Blacksmithing*, *RE/ACTIONS*, and has work in the permanent collection of the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock, National Ornamental Metal Museum, Yale Contemporary Craft Museum, Ollie Trout Collection at the University of Texas in Austin.

Learn more about JRACraft Weekend: www.jra.org/jracraftnews/2021-masters-of-the-medium



The **James Renwick Alliance** is an independent national non-profit organization that celebrates the achievements of America's craft artists and fosters scholarship, education, connoisseurship and public appreciation of craft art. If you are not already a member, we invite you to become one. More information about us can be found on our website.