

Adam Robert Hager

My 'mad scientist' approach to art making creates inventions by repurposing machines and their individual components. These creations illuminate the inherent beauty that I see within mechanical objects. Some components resonate with me so much that I could put them on a pedestal and display them like a gemstone.

I take inspiration from the interaction between gears, levers, cams, cranks, sprockets, and springs, and I pass my fascination on to the viewer by meticulously constructing new unique mechanical objects. Sometimes these objects are so tiny and detailed that they are best seen with a magnifying glass. Other times the object may have begun as heavy, large, greasy, and clunky, but in the end it becomes graceful and majestic.

I develop relationships with mechanical objects by taking them apart piece by piece. As I disassemble objects such as power tools, motors, watches, and music boxes, I study their parts and how they work. I get a sense of the interrelationships between each component, and I play with ways of functionally, naturally, and seamlessly combining parts from multiple unrelated objects.

The finished product functions as though it always served its new purpose. Every detail and embellishment that I work into the invention fits perfectly together, but the essence of the original objects remain intact. I see things like tools, electronics, and complex machinery as raw materials that can be manipulated into something of my own design. The world is malleable with awe and wonder and my work transmits that sensibility to viewers.