Ray Beldner

Re:Composed

These recent sculptural collages inhabit the space between two and three dimensions, and continue my use of images fragments torn from art history books, auction catalogs, and art magazines. These bright, abstract compositions are arranged on laser-cut wood forms inspired by modernist sculptors like Henry Moore and Jean Arp. The works challenge traditional notions of collage—most viewers do not initially realize they are looking at paper, as the pieces possess a distinct sculptural quality that plays with and obscures the figure-ground relationships.

This body of work marks an evolution in my practice from a conceptually-driven process to a more intuitive approach. Where I once adhered to Marcel Duchamp's "anti-retinal" philosophy and Sol LeWitt's dictum that "the idea is the machine that makes the art," I now let materials and forms guide the work. My small layered constructions have grown into large-scale assemblages and freestanding sculptures, driven by an organic exploration of form rather than predetermined concepts.

By deconstructing and reimagining art historical imagery, these pieces create a dialogue with the past while charting new territory. The process is simultaneously destructive and generative—tearing apart art books to create entirely new forms that both honor and transform the canon.