

**\*\*Blake Oliva\*\***

Blake Oliva is a sculptor and visual theorist whose work resists easy categorization. Born in Texas, he discovered clay at a young age, eventually earning a Master's degree in sculpture and now pursuing doctoral research in visual theory. His practice spans traditional and experimental media, from plaster, steel, and eggshell casting to digital fabrication, always exploring how material, scale, and context shape experience.

Oliva's work exists beyond labels—constantly shifting, becoming, and negotiating its place within public, private, and institutional spaces. He has exhibited widely: on streets, in digital realms, and within traditional galleries, leaving traces in both official and underground contexts. His sculptures and installations explore themes of impermanence, technological collapse, post-apocalyptic imaginaries, and playful gestures that invite reflection, curiosity, and dialogue.

Driven by integrity over idolization, Oliva engages with audiences directly, making his work available for acquisition and collaboration worldwide. Studio visits, workshops, and educational programs are offered selectively, emphasizing meaningful exchange and shared learning. Through his practice, Oliva seeks to create work that resonates—tracing presence, sparking conversation, and leaving a legacy that endures beyond the studio walls.

## **\*\*Blake Oliva — Artist Statement / Biography\*\***

Born in Texas, Blake Oliva discovered clay at a young age, a tactile introduction to a lifelong fascination with form, material, and presence. His pursuit of sculpture led him to the East Coast, where he earned a Master's degree and is now engaged in doctoral research in visual theory. From early experimentation to rigorous academic training, his journey reflects both a commitment to craft and a curiosity about the structures that shape artistic recognition.

Oliva's work resists simple categorization. While rooted in sculpture, his practice continually evolves, challenging the limits of labels and titles. He sees the art world as a constellation of spaces, actors, and hierarchies—galleries, critics, and institutions that determine visibility—but he deliberately positions his work beyond those constraints. His objects, installations, and projects are always in flux: shifting, becoming, and negotiating their place in both public and private contexts.

Exhibition has taken many forms: street murals, digital spaces, and traditional white-cube galleries. In every environment, Oliva adapts, learning new skills while critically engaging with the systems that structure visibility and influence. Sculpture, for him, is a long game: a practice that often requires endurance, patience, and negotiation before material forms emerge. He has exhibited in every city he has called home—through solo and group shows, sometimes under aliases—leaving traces in both official and underground contexts.

His process begins with intention: questioning why a work exists, how it operates within cultural and institutional frameworks, and how it might engage audiences beyond the gallery. Working

across plaster, steel, eggshell casting, welding, and digital fabrication, Oliva embraces technical mastery as a gateway to exploration rather than a final destination. Recurring motifs in his practice include the fleeting nature of time, technological collapse, post-apocalyptic imaginaries, and playful interventions that invite reflection and engagement. Scale and site are always considered in relation to labor, resources, and audience interaction, balancing monumental ambition with practical realities.

Blake's influences are expansive—ranging from subway graffiti and video games to world-class museums and architectural landmarks—but he prioritizes integrity and sincerity over idolization. His work is a dialogue with both history and contemporaneity, shaped by observation, experimentation, and an ongoing critical engagement with culture and society.

Committed to accessibility and exchange, Oliva makes his work available for acquisition worldwide. He engages with collectors, curators, and institutions directly, fostering dialogue that extends beyond the studio and gallery. While studio visits are generally reserved for professional inquiries, he maintains an active presence online, through digital archives, and via direct correspondence, offering opportunities for collaboration, workshops, and educational programs.

Ultimately, Oliva's work seeks to spark reflection, curiosity, and conversation. It is a record of research, experience, and persistence—a trace of presence intended to resonate long after it leaves the studio. He envisions a legacy unburdened by constraint, one where art continues to engage, challenge, and inspire across communities, spaces, and generations.