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Zimmerman, Brian William

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

False Positive

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Visual Arts

by

Brian W Zimmerman

Committee in charge:

Professor Anya Gallaccio, Chair
Professor Ernest Silva
Professor Michael Trigilio
Professor Christine Harris

2012

The thesis of Brian W Zimmerman is approved and it is acceptable
in quantity and form for publication on microfilm and
electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2012

For my wife: Mrs. Amy Zimmerman.

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

False Positive

by

Brian W. Zimmerman

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

University of California, San Diego, 2012

Professor Anya Gallaccio, Chair

False Positive is an installation of four distinct sculptures with overlapping relationships created by arrangement, materials, process and content in a dimly lit gallery. The work reflects elements of modern and figurative sculpture, tree houses and deer blinds, a dining room and terminal illness. The show references my interest in building structures, altering existing objects, notions of masculinity, ritual labor and craft, metaphorical expression and ways in which we approach and relate to forms in our space. These interests are utilized to begin conversations about the body, its psychological projections, its physical contortions and spaces it longs to inhabit or escape from. Imbedded in each form is a sense of contrast that either upends or distorts what is usually expected of it; the strong is made weak, the playful turns threatening, the grotesque becomes loveable.