



## Jeff Landman Transforms the Unsightly into Sculptural Perfection

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Brooklyn-based artist and craftsman, Jeff Landman, is currently showing a selection of works at Tracy Williams, Ltd in a one-person show titled *Working on a Building*, on view through February 22. This display of sculptures demonstrates the transformative and creative power artists render when working with raw materials. What began as rotted and ruined pieces of timber with nails sticking out at ungainly angles, are now a collection of chairs, tables, columns and beds that are geometrically impeccable.

One of the themes here is uniting rawness with refinement, idiosyncrasy with standardization. Each sculpture has a unique grain pattern to it, yet crafted to the same precise dimensions. Perhaps the most striking objects are the small column pieces, some stacked higher than 6-feet. Landman fashioned these from some of the most thoroughly ruined wood, which he polished into precise sections, complete with a kind of Doric groove pattern, yet maintaining the nearly rotted massive rift in the middle of each section.

The wood is also smooth to the touch. This is due to the 100% pure vegetable oil soap Landman used to clean and seal the wood. The result allows the rich and varied grain patterns to emerge in stark clarity, while still preserving the wood's original imperfections. This creates a somewhat surreal experience; the wood looks rooted, but is as smooth as glass.

Working on a Building is a fascinating window into the creative process of Landman, whose innovative and industrious practice leaves viewers with a strengthened sense of agency and possibility in their attitude toward ruined objects.