

# THE ARTWORK OF J. JORDAN BRUNS

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## **Artist Statement by J. Jordan Bruns**

I am interested in stationary objects. In particular, stone. Not many things made of stone move, mostly because it's heavy. Steel is heavy, but we use steel while commuting everyday with planes and cars. Stone on the other hand, is stationary, lifeless, motionless, and stagnant but it's fused with an abundance of history. Empires are even built with the help of stone. Rome above all, is my favorite. Many a civilization tries to mimic the strength and permanence of Rome. The new empire will borrow blueprints and build monuments that suggest the prominence of the once great empire. I don't have blueprints. My drawings and paintings develop from spills of paint or smudges of graphite. I start to see the full image as I construct the piece. But civilizations, like Rome, fall, and stone begins to move when the walls and buildings crumble. Stone stirs again when civilizations are built, brick by brick. In my work, I imagine both growth and ruin happening simultaneously. I aim to depict stone as organic, "tired of being stationary," and it develops energy of its own. The stone is done with being oppressed by gravity. It bursts, becomes light, changes its form, and collaborates with other stones to form structures or vortexes. It has ups and downs, creates problems and solutions. Sometimes I feel like the stone, as I hate being stationary.