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Exhibition by Industrial Artist Chris Bathgate Opens at the Baltimore Museum of Industry on March 24

Display explores traditional and modern machining in creating sculpture

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – An exhibition by Baltimore-based artist Chris Bathgate of machined-metal objects explores how modern and traditional machine work can be harnessed to create unique artistic expressions. Featuring 28 works of art, **REINVENTION: The Work of Chris Bathgate** will open Friday, March 24, 2017 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI).

Bathgate is a self-trained machinist. He utilizes handmade tools and automated CNC (computer numerical control) milling machines and metal lathes to create precisely-crafted elements that assemble into complex sculptures. He has spent more than fifteen years adapting metalworking machinery from salvaged and repurposed equipment. Bathgate's aesthetic considerations stem from the very machines that he uses to create his sculptures. Each piece that he makes is informed by the one it is preceded by, and he modifies his machinery accordingly—not for improved practical function but for the aesthetic developments that can be produced.

The REINVENTION exhibition will include schematic drawings of his work done both digitally and through Diazo printing, an antiquated process used to create copies of architectural and technical drawings, commonly known as *blueprints*. While it has been replaced with more modern processes since it was developed in the 1940s, blueprint machines are still available, and Bathgate found and restored one for use in making these prints.

Playing with the tension between aesthetic vs. utility, form vs. function, and industrial vs. handmade, Bathgate's interdisciplinary work lies at the intersection of art, craft, and design. It serves as an example of how computer-mediated fabrication may bridge the divide between art, craft, and industrial production in the Digital Age. This creative evolution—from industrial to individual, utilitarian to aesthetic—now defines the craft of metal working and machining.

“We generally think of machines and what they produce as being useful, but not necessarily beautiful. This exhibition challenges the notion of how fine art is created,” says BMI executive director Anita Kassof.

The exhibition will be open through March 11, 2018 and was made possible with generous support from PNC, Comcast, Direct Dimensions and Creative Print Group, Inc.

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ABOUT THE BMI:

The Baltimore Museum of Industry celebrates Maryland’s industrial legacy and shows how innovation fuels ongoing progress. Our exhibitions, educational programs, and collections engage visitors in the stories of the people who built Baltimore and those who shape the region’s future.

VISITOR INFORMATION:

The Baltimore Museum of Industry is located at 1415 Key Highway, Inner Harbor South, Baltimore, MD 21230. The BMI is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and closed Mondays and certain holidays. Free on-site parking is available. Admission prices, general museum information and directions can be found at www.thebmi.org. Follow us on Facebook at [BaltimoreMuseumofIndustry](https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreMuseumofIndustry) and on Twitter at @BMIatWork.