



Robert Lewis, detail from, *Wise, Frigid and Sincere in Business*

## **BUILT / BROKEN**

**Artists:** Taylor Apostol, Cynthia Back, Michele Fandel Bonner, Johnathan Derry, Hilde-Kari Guttormsen, Patty Harris, Donald Hartmann, John Hayes-Nikas, Jan Johnson, Robert Lewis, Dylan MacLeod, Robert Maloney, Angela McHale, Duncan Morimoto Brown, Chelsea Revelle, Seth Rubin, Cathy Weaver Taylor, Jill Watts

**Exhibition Dates:** March 20 – April 17, 2019

**Opening Reception:** March 20, 4-6:00

**Artist Gallery Talks:** March 20, 4:15-4:45

April 2, 12-1:00

**Exhibition location:** Schiltkamp Gallery, Traina Center for the Arts, Clark University  
92 Downing Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

**Gallery Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 9-7 / Friday, 9-4:30 / Saturday & Sunday, 12-5

**For More Information:** Professor Elli Crocker, Gallery Director: 508-793-8818 and/or  
Tina Zlody, Visual & Performing Arts Events Coordinator: 508-793-7349

Humanity's incessant impulse to both create and destroy may be an expression of the life force itself, but with the pace of these cycles seeming to increase ever more markedly and with the impact of human activity felt ever more globally, it is worthwhile to reflect on this impulse. While material culture transmutes continuously, so do socio-economic, political, and religious "structures". We see marvelous systems designed only to fail in various ways – from the Internet to transportation networks, from medical science to government programs. Are we building beyond our ability to control or manage what we build? Is poor design contributing to things falling apart?

The artists in this exhibition are creating things, while commenting on breakdown at the same time – from individual bodies succumbing to age and affliction, to the falling of great empires; from the building of new "temples" on the rubble of the old, to the questioning of consumer culture and unfettered growth. There is also fear expressed about the impact of all this activity on the climate of our planet and the well-being of all of its denizens. These artists also find meaning in the ruins, remnants, and debris left behind in the wake of this relentless building and breaking, and breathe new life into this material. Like the ever-dancing figure of the Hindu god, Shiva, we humans hold creation and destruction in our hands. With this enormous power comes both grief and hope.

This exhibition was conceived, curated and installed by students in *ARTS 296 Gallery Culture and Practice*, a "problems of practice" course, in which students explore opportunities to connect what they learn in the classroom with issues and matters faced by professionals working beyond the campus.