

The Sacred and the Banal

These photographs depict a collection of small objects given to me as gifts over the past several years. They are tchotchkes that have no monetary value, but in my psyche their presence looms large. Each has a story associated with it that evokes a particular memory or moment in time. In my apartment, they are lined up like little soldiers on the mantle of my fireplace. For this project, I invited my friend, the photographer and performance artist Shasti O'Leary Soudant, to collaborate with me and create portraits of them. She chose to monumentalize each object with paper and light.

— Heather Pesanti, July 1, 2012

1.

Snoopy carved in wood by my father as an adolescent,
c. 1957/1958. Edward Pesanti (b. 1944)



2.

Miniature house from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,
c. 2007. Tom Sarver (b. 1975)



3.

Astronaut-themed party favors from the artists' dinner for the exhibition *Life on Mars*, the 2008 *Carnegie International*, initialed and gifted by Peter Fischli and David Weiss of the collaborative duo Fischli/Weiss, 2008.



4.

A pan scraper made by the artist Martin Puryear at the invitation of The Museum of Modern Art to design a commercial product for the gift shop, inscribed and gifted by John Elderfield, c. 2007/2008.



5.

"This is a gift of a fish," a metal scrap object found by artist Thomas Hirschhorn on an illicit excursion through an abandoned steel mill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, c. 2008.



6.

A butterfly on a scented bag, gifted to me on a birthday
by my brother Steve, date unknown.



7.

Miniature bow with three arrows and a rock, gifted on my birthday, October 9, 2010. Michael Myers (b. 1984).



