



Dual-Portrait of Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Mexican onyx (private collection, Switzerland)



STUDIO

Barry X Ball
Brooklyn, NY 11211

BY BRENT LEWIS

As perfect and intense as possible, the work of artist Barry X Ball is an exploration of the limits of the indispensable tradition of human representation. Beginning with direct inspiration from historical sculpture, these antecedents become a simple starting point in a long and laborious journey, which for many sculptures means years before the unveiling of a finished work. Within these pieces, BXB layers a multitude of signifiers—inclusive of that which is religious or secular; pious or profane; cultural, political or personal—finally creating something provocatively new.



Clockwise from top: *Envy and Purity*, Utah golden honeycomb calcite, The Throne Room, Ca' Rezzonico, Venice; Barry X Ball, with a large formation of Iranian onyx being prepared for a monumental work, *Hermaphrodite/Nightmare*, for the Olbricht Collection, Berlin; a group of plaster casts of BXB's subjects, including Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn (right); *Envy*, in Italian portoro marble; a studio assistant hand-working a large-format stereolithography armature of *Perfect Forms*, prior to its coating with layers of nickel, copper and 24k gold; Barry X Ball with *Envy*, Mexican onyx.



PHOTOS BY BRENT LEWIS