



DUANE HANSON

Lunchbreak, 1989

Art Basel Unlimited
June 13–16, 2019, hall 1.1
Messe Basel

Duane Hanson, *Lunchbreak*, 1989, polyvinyl, polychromed in oil, with mixed media and accessories © 2019 Estate of Duane Hanson/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Lunchbreak (1989) by Duane Hanson is a life-size sculptural installation depicting three blue-jean-clad construction workers on a worksite replete with scaffolding, power tools, and a pizza box. Featuring Hanson's signature technique of creating hyperrealistic human sculptures out of polyvinyl cast from living models and accessorized with found objects, this work compels the viewer to contemplate stereotypes and perceptions of class and labor. Throughout his career, Hanson's subject matter shifted from the haunting and affective portrayal of racial tension and police brutality to the representation of societal issues and class differentials in America with straightforward, non-idealized representations of lower and middle classes. Within the current political climate, this work takes on a charged relevance due to Hanson's uncannily realistic depiction of blue-collar workers, who are the ongoing subjects of much electoral and policy debate. Depending on the site of the work's installation, *Lunchbreak* takes on varying levels of verisimilitude, at times appearing to blend naturally into the surrounding environment.