



Precious





The Ancestor, and family, 2009
plastic, foam, metal, vinyl, sweat, tears,
crippling debts



Andrew Mockett

I use found materials because they are free and the shape/colour of an object supplies a solution to a question I haven't even asked. The baboon was suggested by a red plastic drum sticking out of a skip, which I noticed as I cycled to my wife's house in Ditchling. It already looked like a baboon's backside without any input from me. The rest of the materials followed or were found because I was now going to make the baboon. If I had not seen the barrel I fear the baboon would never have been made.

I never pick an object up and then work out how best to use it. I pick things up because they lend themselves to an idea or a thing, or remind me of something, something that is not that object.

The baboon evolved and rolled around in my consciousness all summer.

I usually work fast, but in this case I gave myself time to consider the sculpture. I had seen Picasso's *Baboon and Young* (1951). The bicycle seat was also a nod to Picasso. I think he would have approved of my design solution.

Hopefully the viewer sees the animal and is not overwhelmed by the materials. If in doubt 'fake it'.

