

**Skratch** is a sculpting medium (patent pending) perfected by Jared Nicholson. When he's not taking his show on the road, Jared can be found at Area 15 in Charlotte, NC. QZ plays 20 Questions.

Well, 15, but who's counting?

**1:** What is skratch?

**Jared:** Skratch is a new sculpting medium rooted in the study of hornets, wasps and mud daubers.

**2:** What's your job title?

**Jared:** I'm a sculptor, but I call myself a dauber, a type of wasp.

**3:** Are you the artist who did this car?

**Jared:** Yes, but I prefer to think of myself as a designer and creator. Really, I'm just a conduit for inspiration and imagination.

**4:** Is skratch waterproof?

**Jared:** No, but it can be sealed and made waterproof.

**5:** Is that tin foil on your car?

**Jared:** No, it's aluminum foil. Most magicians work with smoke and mirrors, I use sealer and foil.

**6:** Is it heavy?

**Jared:** Skratch is a dense, heavy medium, so yeah, it added about 400 pounds to the car's weight.

**7:** Your gas mileage must suck.

**Jared:** It sucked before, so it didn't change a thing. I still get the same mileage.

**8:** What do you call that thing?

**Jared:** An automorph.

**9:** How did you do that?

**Jared:** With my hands, the only tools I need to sculpt with. That's why I'm a dauber.

**10:** Can you carve it?

**Jared:** Yes, you can, but I prefer to sculpt it right the first time. If I need to, though, I can sand it or carve it down to the right shape.

**11:** What's the medium like? Is it wet at first? What does it feel like?

**Jared:** It has the consistency of bread dough and dries through the evaporation process. The drier the climate, the faster it dries, and vice-versa. If I have to stop sculpting and my work's not finished, I can cover it with plastic and come back to it later. The plastic keeps the medium from drying out before I'm finished sculpting.

**12:** Can you do that to my car?

**13:** Yes: I can turn your car into an automorph, or just sculpt certain aspects, like sculpted flames on the hood, or three-dimensional pinstriping.

My price depends on how extensive the work is, of course. Every situation is different.

**14:** It says on your car you're looking for a sponsor. How much?

**Jared:** It's more of a philosophy: in the past, kings, queens and monarchies supported the renaissance. That's patronage. In America, we have capitalism. There are no kings, queens or monarchies here. In capitalism, we have companies, businesses and corporations. It's all about the stockholders' bottom line. They spend billions every year on advertising so we'll buy their shit. If more artists used their car as a mobile billboard, and each artist put what they did on their car, be it a mural, or sculpture, or polka dots, then they're representing themselves and what they do in the community.

By leaving a space for advertisements, companies, corporations and businesses can invest in the quality of life by supporting local artists. In doing so, they're supporting us, we're supporting them and everybody wins. When an artist creates, they develop a sense of hope within themselves. When they share it with others, they're sharing that same sense of hope. I believe we're living in an expanding renaissance, a type of morphic age, and it's worldwide, linked by technology. Most religions, educational systems and news media have taught people to look at the differences in one another around the world, but when you look at what we have in common, that far outweighs any amount of differences we think we might have. They're promoting fear, which will lead to an apocalypse. When we promote hope through our creative endeavors,

it will lead us to an ever-expanding renaissance. That's where I am.

**15:** So what's next?

**Jared:** Live every day, be a product of the people you love. If we are the thoughts we think, bring out the best in others, and they'll bring out the best in you. We honor the ones we love when we live a life worth living.

*Jared has done numerous public projects using skratch, including the stage at The Visulite, interiors at the Steeple Lounge, Buckhead Saloon, Matt's Chicago Dog on The Green, SK Net Café and many more. He works out of Area 15, a research and community development facility in NoDa and is available to teach people how to work with skratch. He is even more interested in speaking engagements based on an expanding world renaissance. Call 704 733 7554 or e-mail yacatysmacaty@yahoo.com*

[www.skratchworks.com](http://www.skratchworks.com)

*interview and photo by Little Shiva  
[www.littleshiva.com](http://www.littleshiva.com)*

