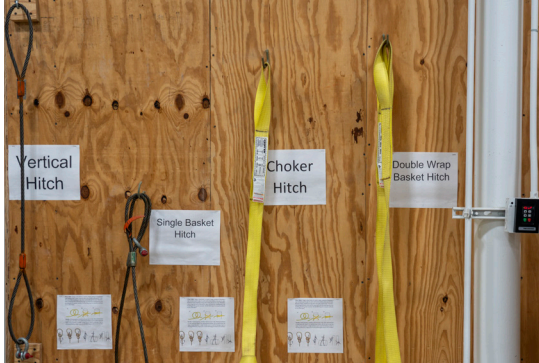


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jay youngdahl











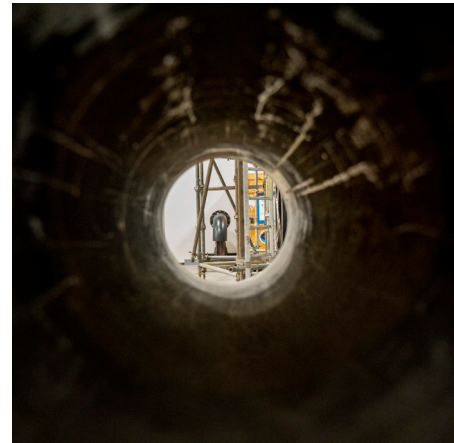
The intelligentsia of the left and of the right promotes a shiny “future of work.” Workers, think tanks and philanthropic groups exclaim, will be replaced by robots. To these elitists, manual labor is less meaningful, more fungible, and certainly less meritorious than other jobs.

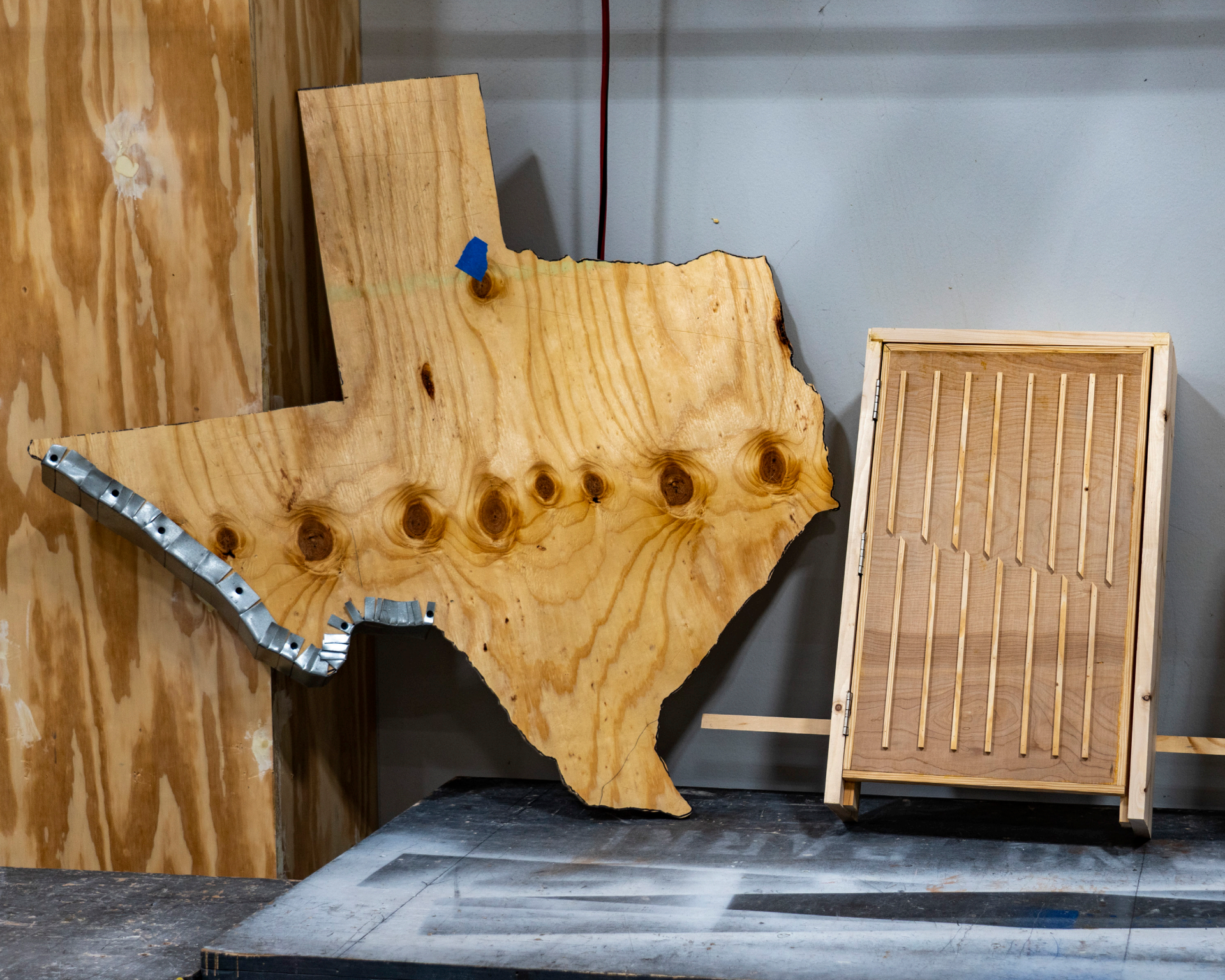
This class prejudice devalues the creativity of those who work in construction or in factories or in the homes of the wealthy, the working class. Art is a creative form of manual labor and manual labor is a creative form of art.

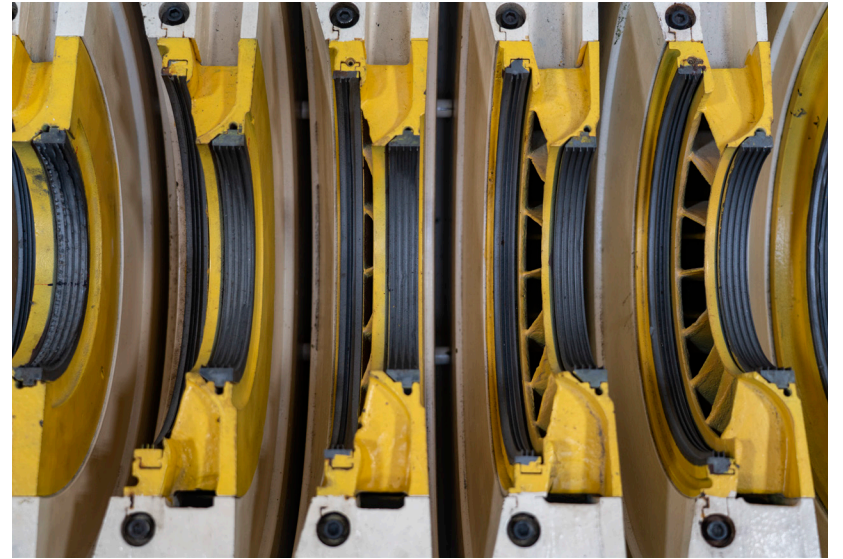
We live in a time in which any alternative to higher education seems to be a thin gruel. Yet over three quarters of all jobs in the US do not require a college education, and many who follow the dream of a college education find themselves forever trapped in a debtors’ prison.

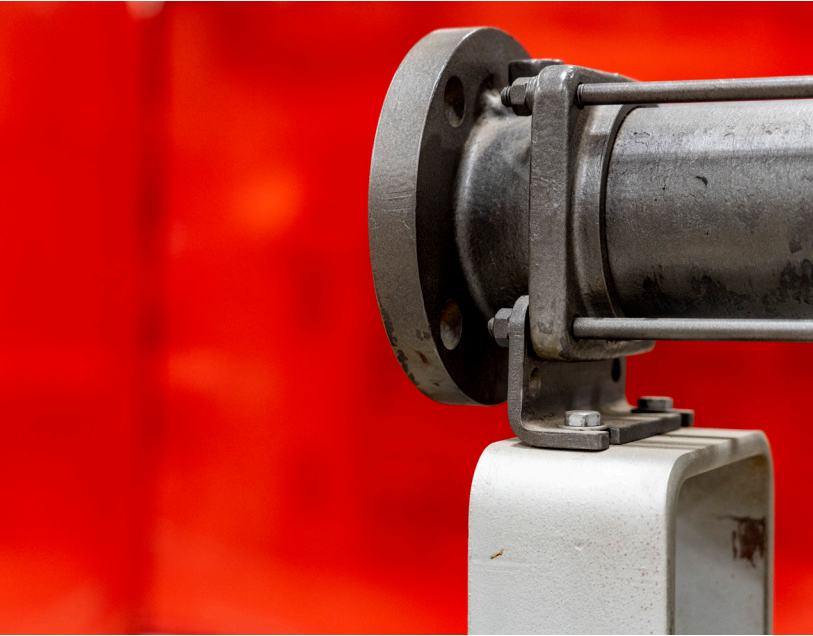
Schools like this one, in which the carpenter and millwright skills necessary for this class of construction work are taught, train thousands of people — Black, brown, and white. These workers earn a living wage as they learn their craft. Their identity as members of the proletariat of carpenters and millwrights is partially created here, as well as at job sites and at union meetings.

This school and this work deserve our respectful attention. Our full humanity demands it, and so does our politics.











All photographs taken at the Central South Carpenters and Millwrights Training Trust Fund at 5500 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505 in December of 2021.

Thank you to the instructors and workers for sharing their space with me.

COLOPHON

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