



MIRROR CELLS: A group exhibition of sculpture

The Whitney

May 13 - August 21, 2016

whitney.org

Mirror Cells, opening May 13 at the Whitney Museum of American Art, presents an environment of new sculptures by five young artists who each explore narrative and aesthetic links among objects, immersing viewers in strange invented worlds. The exhibition's title refers to mirror neurons—specialized brain cells that are activated when observing the behavior of others. Maggie Lee's video-based installations chart her family's ups and downs, while Win McCarthy's precarious sculptures are imbued with the anxiety of daily life in an unstable world. Likewise, the anthropomorphic shapes of Elizabeth Jaeger's large-scale ceramic vessels imply ambiguous emotions, and Liz Craft's works are connected through gossipy internal dialogues reflected in sculptural mouths, word bubbles, and spider women. Finally, Rochelle Goldberg's installation alludes to unstable environments and questions of survival through her use of morphing forms and the growth cycles of living things. The exhibition will remain on view through August 21 in the Museum's Hurst Family Galleries on the eighth floor.

Largely composed of modest materials such as wood, clay, plaster, and fabric, these works engage the viewer through a sense of immediacy and tactility. In contrast to much recent art that focuses on the digital and technological, the works here reflect a deep interest in materiality and the historical traditions of sculpture.

In connection with *Mirror Cells*, the Museum will hold three special screenings of Maggie Lee's 2015 film *Mommy*, which explores the artist's own coming of age and her mother's life and unexpected death. Show times, tickets, and further information will be available shortly on whitney.org.

Mirror Cells is organized by Whitney associate curators Christopher Y. Lew and Jane Panetta.

SHOWN: Liz Craft, *Spider Woman Black Dress*, 2015. Papier-mâché, mixed media, dimensions variable. Image courtesy the artist and Jenny's, Los Angeles. Photograph © Daniel Sahlberg