

BELOW THE THIN

Heather Leigh McPherson + Sarah West

October 23rd - November 27th, 2021



'The inframince is this threshold that allows one to pass from one dimension to another and is like the 'difference between the void of a mould and the full of the corresponding moulage'; or again, it is like 'the noise or sound that corduroy trousers make in moving.'

- Marcel Duchamp

Consider the moment of transference between the is and the isn't, the was and the now, the here and the there. The world becomes infinitely more rich in their wake, and are recognizable only via universally familiar experiences: the warmth of a seat recently vacated, making it through a sliding glass door at the very last second, a faraway scent captured in a breeze.

These moments of special relativity are made tangible in the works of Heather Leigh McPherson & Sarah West, who question contextual, physical, and system-based boundaries. Offering moments of shared experiential discovery, those familiar fragments are made whole via rendered language and material enclosure.

Existing somewhere between technician and mage, Heather Leigh McPherson presents challenges to accepted reality and the perfection of a tree with equal weight. The result of a labor intensive process of building dimension through resin, paint, paper and text, her low relief, wall-hanging works serve as wormholes into both deep strangeness and clarity. In these energetic collage-like works, we see realistically rendered iconography alongside stylized facial features and abstract language; a semi-autobiographical guide to exploring the in-between.

The finely rendered surfaces and optical games of Sarah West's paintings create alchemical dreamscapes that invite the viewer's avatar to enter that space. At the same time, their composition and presentation negates familiar hierarchical systems of importance and order. Positioning transformation as a tie between the ancient and contemporary or the corporeal and digital, West deconstructs and rebuilds connections across time.

Below the Thin presents highly considered symbolism and materiality that leaves no stone unturned, but offers no finality; we are still unsettled. Together, these artists simultaneously destabilize and affirm our accepted reality, hinting that there's something more in what we already know.

Heather Leigh McPherson

Heather Leigh McPherson is a Providence-based artist working in painting, sculpture, and animation. Recent solo exhibitions include High Bottom at Actual Size Los Angeles, 30 Special Colors at Greenlease Gallery in Kansas City and Anytime Concept at Vox Populi in Philadelphia. Winner of the 2015 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Merit Fellowship in Painting, McPherson holds a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's from Rhode Island School of Design.

hmcpherson.com

Sarah West

Sarah West has exhibited her work nationally in many group shows and in solo shows in Washington, DC and Winston-Salem, NC. West was featured in the South 2016 edition of the juried art publication New American Paintings. West received a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art from Wake Forest University and an MFA from Clemson University. She has taught painting and drawing courses at Clemson University and Columbus State University and currently lives and works in Birmingham, AL

thesarahwest.com

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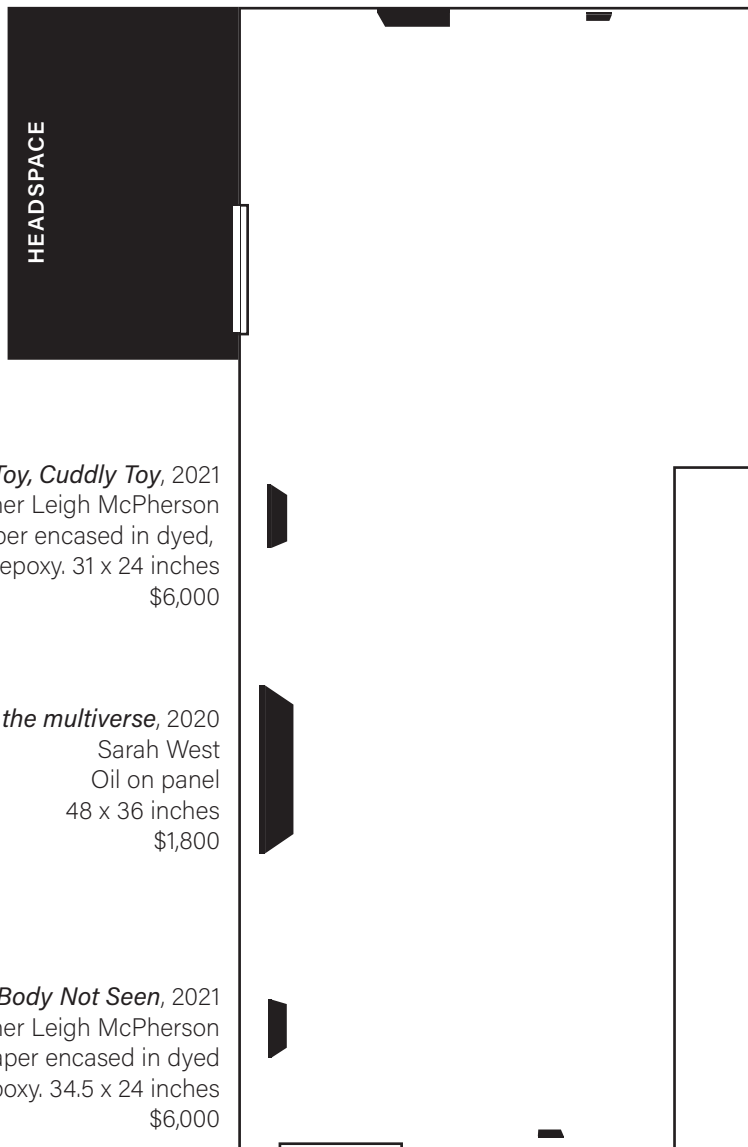


Out There, 2021

Heather Leigh McPherson
Painting on paper encased in dyed,
low-relief cast epoxy. 24 x 31 inches
\$6,000

sodalite, 2020

Sarah West
Oil on panel
14 x 11 inches
\$325



Hard Toy, Cuddly Toy, 2021

Heather Leigh McPherson
Painting on paper encased in dyed,
low-relief cast epoxy. 31 x 24 inches
\$6,000

sun shining on the multiverse, 2020

Sarah West
Oil on panel
48 x 36 inches
\$1,800

A Shared Third Body Not Seen, 2021

Heather Leigh McPherson
Drawing on paper encased in dyed
low-relief cast epoxy. 34.5 x 24 inches
\$6,000

infinity tableau 1, 2021

Sarah West
Oil on panel
14 x 11 inches
\$375



BELOW THE THIN

Heather Leigh McPherson



A Shared Third Body Not Seen, 2021, drawing on paper encased in dyed,
low-relief cast epoxy, 24" x 31".

\$6,000



Out There, 2021, painting on paper encased in dyed, low-relief cast epoxy, 24" x 31".
\$6,000



Hard Toy, Cuddly Toy, 2021, painting on paper encased in dyed,
low-relief cast epoxy, 31" x 24".
\$6,000



infinity tableau I, 2021, oil on panel, 14" x 11".
\$375



sodalite, 2020, oil on panel, 14" x 11".
\$325