

Imagination & Thing-ness



Tamara Rusnak, *Collection Drawings*, 2017-2018

What is it?

More important than just depicting the world as we know it, artists show the world in new ways and imagine what does not exist. In short, artists have the power to change the world by envisioning a better one.

Tamara Rusnak and Jessica Morgun make physical objects from the most insubstantial inspirations: memories and imagination.

Can you identify what the artists have depicted in their sculptures and drawings? Tamara describes her artwork as "tools that have never existed." As someone who doesn't always feel like she fits in, she says that her drawings offer a kind of comfort, where even unidentifiable things have a place. Neither artist intends to answer the question, "What is it?" but ignite your imagination. They aim to create curiosity to be carried forward into everyday interactions with objects.

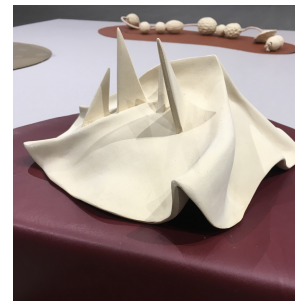
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audio tour*



(Clockwise from top left): Tamara Rusnak, *Seeker*, 2013 - [ongoing]; Tamara Rusnak, *Signal* [detail], 2018; Jessica Morgun, *Think of a Lost Thing*, 12 stoneware sculptures (dimensions variable), 2021.

*audio tour transcript available - please inquire with staff

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SELF-GUIDED TOUR Imagined Objects

August 6 - September 26, 2021



Imagined Objects, exhibition installation view

Tamara Rusnak
&
Jessica Morgun

Solid Memory

Can you think of something you've lost?

How would you describe it if you weren't allowed to say what it is, what it's used for, or what it looks like? Would having to explain how it fits into your hand, what it feels like when you run your hand over it, or what would happen if you put it in your mouth provoke more vivid memories of the lost thing?

Artist Jessica Morgun conducted interviews with people, asking them to describe something they had lost. Working from these descriptions, she made clay sculptures.

Did you notice that Jessica used the same colours for the lettering and the mats upon which her sculptures rest? These colours indicate which of the ten ceramic objects may match the seven bits of interviews printed on the wall. Which story do you think matches each sculpture? Do you think you can tell what the thing might have been from reading the stories?

Though the objects are silly and strange, Jessica's project is about loss and grieving.

Portal

What is a portal?

What sort of doorway, a gate, or other entrance do you imagine when you hear the word "portal," and where do you imagine a portal might take you? Often we suspect that a portal will take us to a different time or place. Have you been transported to another time or place or a memory by something like a song or smell?

Rusnak's sculpture *Portal*, located directly in front of the gallery entrance, looks more like an alien creature than a door. A bulbous head of grey, matted wool is balanced atop its five spindly legs. If you bring your face to the yawning hole, notice how the gallery lights dim and the sweet scent that fills your nostrils. Tamara's *Portal* may transport you to another time and place in your mind, rather than physically taking you somewhere.

Recycled Parts

Look carefully at Tamara Rusnak's papier-mache sculptures. What materials do you think the artist used to make them?

She used paper and flour paste, but not just any paper. She ripped up some of her drawings and re-made them into new artworks.

Many objects in this exhibition will be destroyed or disappear, only to be re-made or re-imagined.

Jessica Morgun's sculptures based on descriptions of lost things will be given away at the end of the exhibition, dispersing like the fleeting memories they are based on.

Several of Tamara's sculptures were assembled from spare pieces and will be reduced to parts at the exhibition's close.



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