

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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MEDIA ALERT



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

Mirror Cells

A Group Exhibition Featuring Sculpture by Liz Craft, Elizabeth Jaeger, Rochelle Goldberg, Maggie Lee, and Win McCarthy

NEW YORK, April 13, 2016—*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.

Related Programs

Screening of *Mommy*, 2015 with Maggie Lee, Chrissie Iles, and Jane Panetta

Saturday, May 21, 7-8:30 PM

Maggie Lee's 2015 film *Mommy* explores the sudden death of the artist's mother in 2012. Returning to the suburban New Jersey home where she grew up, Lee addresses the trauma of this loss and her own coming of age using layers of photographs, drawings, cellphone footage and animation. This special screening will be followed by a conversation with Maggie Lee, curator Chrissie Iles, and associate curator Jane Panetta, one of the organizers of *Mirror Cells*. This program is held in connection with the exhibition.

Tickets are required (\$10 adults; \$8 members, students and seniors).

Screening of *Mommy*, 2015

Sunday, May 22, 4 PM

Maggie Lee's 2015 film *Mommy* explores the sudden death of the artist's mother in 2012. Returning to the suburban New Jersey home where she grew up, Lee addresses the trauma of this loss and her own coming of age using layers of photographs, drawings, cellphone footage and animation.

Whitney Signs: *Mirror Cells*

Saturday, June 4, 4-6PM

Experience the Whitney's world renowned collection of modern and contemporary American art in American Sign Language. Join us for a free tour in ASL of *Mirror Cells* led by expert Deaf educator, Emmanuel von Schack, accompanied by a voice interpreter. The tour begins at 5 pm, with a pre-tour wine and cheese reception from 4–5 pm in the Laurie M. Tisch Education Center.

Admission to the tour and reception is free with RSVP. A limited number of spaces are available for ASL students to observe.

Screening: *Mommy* (2015) with Maggie Lee and Leslie Jamison

Saturday June 4, 7-8:30 PM

Maggie Lee's 2015 film *Mommy* explores the sudden death of the artist's mother in 2012. Returning to the suburban New Jersey home where she grew up, Lee addresses the trauma of this loss and her own coming of age using layers of photographs, drawings, cellphone footage and animation. This special screening is followed by a conversation between Maggie Lee and the novelist and essayist Leslie Jamison, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *The Empathy Exams* (2014) and Assistant Professor at the Columbia University School of the Arts. This program is held in connection with the exhibition *Mirror Cells*.

Tickets are required (\$10 adults; \$8 members, students and seniors).

Verbal Description and Touch Tour: *Mirror Cells*

Friday, June 17, 10-11:30AM

Whitney verbal description and touch tours provide an opportunity for visitors who are blind or have low vision and their companions to experience the richness and diversity of twentieth and twenty-first century American art through vivid description and tactile opportunities. Ninety-minute tours are free-of-charge and are offered monthly on Friday mornings, beginning before the Museum opens to the general public. Please join us for a tour of *Mirror Cells*.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. Please contact accessfeedback@whitney.org or call (212) 671-1823 to learn more or register.

Exhibition Support

Generous support is provided by Jackson Tang.

Additional support is provided by Eleanor Cayre.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

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