

CATHY MCCLURE

Artist Statement

In my latest body of work, I present a modern *Wunderkammer*—a curated collection of wonders that bridges past ideals of a utopian techno-future with the reality of our present. This exhibition is the culmination of a career-long inquiry into destruction, renewal, nostalgia, and reinvention, as I strive to highlight resilience and beauty through an investigation of the uncanny. Informed by my extensive background in metalsmithing and the profound experience of losing my childhood home, my anti-disciplinary approach allows me to challenge the boundaries of what art can be. Through my curiosity-led examination of materials and processes, I question what is considered valuable, much like the great collectors of the past.

My practice often begins with a "Geppetto-like taxidermy"—a process that unearths the latent worth within the disregarded. While my past creations have centered on kinetic figures, this new series represents a profound conceptual departure. These static bronzes and their accompanying paintings serve as a formal record of my findings. Meticulously cast from the eviscerated remains of battery-operated plush toys, these precious forms are a tangible act of resuscitating the disposable into the enduring. The sculptures' metamorphosis from transient objects to monumental forms is chronicled in titles that reference a broad canon of masterworks—from mythology and classical literature to iconic figures in art history—which give each piece a place in a larger narrative.

The sculptures' mutation from the raw energy of their creation to their final, still state is chronicled in my expressive portraits on paper. Often incorporating poignant "tears" of water, paint, charcoal, and pastel, these paintings serve as field reports on my specimens, capturing the dynamic energy of their creation. They humanize the metallic forms, blurring the lines between the animate and the inanimate and infusing them with a sense of pathos. The bronzes' static presence stands in stark contrast to a new installation of my kinetic "Mutants"—whimsical plastic sculptures reconfigured from the same salvaged source material. This diverse body of work also includes two large stitched plush skin sculptures and a collection of sterling silver eyeball rings.

As a whole, the collection transforms the transient into the durable; the bronzes serving as the focal point of the conversation, the central wonders of the exhibition. Ultimately, I am fascinated by transformation and the narratives embedded within objects and spaces. Through a meticulously curated collection of sculptures and paintings, I invite viewers to step into this contemporary *Wunderkammer* and discover hidden value in the overlooked. I strive to create something that lasts.