

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Amy Boone-McCreesh & Amber Cobb *Negotiating Spaces*

March 27, 2021 – May 1, 2021

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Saturday, March 27, 2021, from 12 - 5pm

No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time, free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Negotiating Spaces*, a two-person exhibition by Amy Boone-McCreesh (Baltimore, MD) and Amber Cobb (Denver, CO). Comprising sculpture, collage works on paper, and installation, *Negotiating Spaces* features each artist's distinct approach to material and form, diverging and coalescing on aesthetic and conceptual lines.

Physical space, punctuated by interior design and encased by architecture, draws attention to the people and things we surround ourselves with. As living bodies move past each other, negotiations are made. Day in and day out we are reflected in our selections. We may better understand ourselves through these choices and furthermore, we are understood by others through these selections.

Peering through curtained windows, around security bars, and past fence posts, Amy Boone McCreesh's maximal collage and installation works consider the signifiers of class and beauty from the inside looking out. Through the use of lavish colors and textures, notions of taste-making come into question. Formed subconsciously, often inherited through one's lineage and reinforced by architecture itself, how people design their homes and what they consider fashionable is informed by upbringing. There is an aspirational quality to McCreesh's playful works, that spill out of their frames and onto walls with joy and defiance. By harnessing harmoniously clashing overdecoration, McCreesh subversively negates cultural markers of luxury and mass production, training an eye on the psychological and often revealing nesting instinct.



Image: Amber Cobb, *Lefty and Righty*, 2021, Wood, plaster, epoxy clay, enamel paint, 28 x 12 x 6 in. and 22 x 14 x 8 in.



Image: Amy Boone-McCreesh, *The Neighbors are Watching*, 2021, Mixed media and collage on paper, beads, 42 x 32.5 x .5in.

Steeped in the confines of domestic space, Amber Cobb's biomorphic sculptures consider function and utility in their delightfully awkward attempts to hold space. Ranging from 5'9" to 13 inches tall, Cobb's sculptures are scaled to the artist as adult and juvenile. Designed to personally accompany her, strategically placed limbs hold scarves and hats, a knee juts out to take a seat on, and a fleshy pocket serves as key receptacle. Cobb's playfully contorted sculptures consider physical and psychological experience when in close quarters, embodying movement through space as we step around the furniture we selected, step over the pets we selected, embrace or recoil from the partners we selected. Opposite her sculptures are a series of gouache on paper paintings, that first appear as abstract hieroglyphs but represent English words coded in an illustrated typeface of the artist's creation. Metaphorically referencing the difficulty and failings of language while locked in close quarters with one another, Cobb's characters add new facets to the idea of body language.

With ample time spent indoors in recent months, artists Amy Boone-McCreesh and Amber Cobb respond to a heightened awareness of bodies and the interiors they occupy. How we negotiate space with ourselves and each other, and the physical venues where these questions play out have been distilled to dazzling visual outcomes. In *Negotiating Spaces*, Boone-McCreesh and Cobb speak to the introspective nature of confinement and its growth potential.

About Amy Boone-McCreesh

Amy Boone- McCreesh was born on Loring Air Force Base in Maine to a British mother and American father. Currently she is based in Baltimore, MD with interests in the connections between aesthetic leanings within economic and cultural status. She has a heightened visual awareness of the ways people and spaces flaunt class, taste, and access. Amy received her MFA from Towson University in Maryland, and shortly thereafter was awarded a two-year Hamiltonian Artist Fellowship in Washington, DC. Her work has been included in exhibitions across the country, notably at Victori + Mo and Mixed Greens (NY, New York, 2015 and 2020), Transmitter Gallery (Brooklyn, NY, 2015), Transformer Gallery (Washington DC (2015), Terrault in Baltimore, MD, and supported by institutional exhibitions at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, Goucher College, in Baltimore, MD and Marymount University in Alexandria, VA. Amy's large-scale works have been acquired by the Department of State in the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico (Art in Embassies, 2013), Facebook (2019), and Capital One (2018). Her work is featured in *New American Paintings* (issues 106 and 118) and *Handmade Life*, published by Thames and Hudson (2016).

Amy is also a two-time recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council individual artist award for works on paper.

In addition to her own studio practice, Amy has a committed relationship to visual arts education as well as curating and running INERTIA. A website dedicated to studio visits, artist interviews, and providing a voice for artists to create context for their work outside of critical dialogue. Amy is currently adjunct faculty at Maryland Institute College of Art.

About Amber Cobb

Amber Cobb is a Colorado based artist, living and working in the Denver area. In 2011, she received her M.F.A. in Sculpture from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Cobb has been exhibited in a number of exhibitions both nationally and internationally. This includes xiao shan xiao at the Hunan Province Art Museum in Kaifeng, Millennial Pink at Untitled Miami, and Palettable Relations at Galeria Hilario Galgura in Mexico City, MX. She has shown in numerous exhibitions and institutions in the Colorado region including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, and at RedLine. Cobb's mattress works were highlighted in *New American Paintings*, #114 and her solo show Solace was reviewed in *Sculpture Magazine* their May 2016 issue.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The *New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and The *Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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