



SHS

SENIOR HONORS STUDIO
EST. 2014



NYU CC

Allure – Delicious and Profound

Imagine you're exploring New York like another Odysseus, or Leopold Bloom – a modern day flaneur. Imagine now, that you come across a cave unlike any other you have ever seen, and in the middle of the city for that matter! There's something about it that draws you in, stirring your curious side. It could be a sound, or just a sense – a sense that you simply must indulge in your curiosity.

Upon entering this mysterious cave you encounter a room full of strange, yet, not entirely unfamiliar objects. Are you supposed to be there? Is it permitted to poke around? Nothing is quite clear, but there is an allure to the space, and its objects that make it impossible to leave without knowing more. So you stay, and look at all the wonders in the room, having completely given in to their allure.

Rebecca Salmon is an artist whose flesh-like works play with perceptions of body, and gender rituals, raising curiosity through an initial shock. The gelatinous textural surfaces meticulously and painstakingly shaping the works she creates are embellished with intricate details such as hair and even veins. This heartfelt care for the texture, color and realism of these body-like works call the viewer, like the enchanting song of Sirens, to step out of their understanding of the body and become intimate with her life-like pieces. By playing with ambiguous representations of flesh, and the understanding of what is real, and what is not, Salmon engages the viewer in a humorous, yet meditatively calming way. Lately, she has also been experimenting with sound.

Dae Young Kim has developed a sculptural, and drawing practice that evolves around the concept of curiosity, and the inner turmoil it causes. Borrowing from the idea of the Wunderkabinett, Dae Young makes large cabinet-like sculptures that offer half-hidden, half-exposed views of their mysterious interiors. This play between hidden and enclosed

calls the viewer to physically interact, and examine the objects that appeal with the innocence of another Pandora's box. Moreover, even his large-scale drawings play upon the human need for clear answers. The carefully drawn, and blurred images envelop the viewer within their sphere of enchanting indiscernibility as one tries to make clear what he is and is not looking upon.

Both artists' meticulous attention to detail reveal their own intimacy with their objects, one that becomes reflected upon, and shared with whomever steps into the wonder-full cave that exhibits their works. Their pieces, flat or sculptural, ignite an inner dialogue that creates a singular experience for anyone who gets entangled in their allure. In this interactive viewing process, what remains is a sweet calmness, unlike the inner stir created by the initial curiosity from first encountering their work.



Dae Young Kim
*Mr. Dae Young's Cabinet of
Curiosities* [detail], 2015
Lumber, Plywood, MDF, Found
objects, Trinkets from friends
58 x 25 x 18 inches



Rebecca Salmon
Mikvah [detail], 2015
Gelatin
41 x 30 inches