

My process typically begins outdoors. I have always had a soft appreciation for delicate and sometimes grotesque, tiny creatures and know many others do not share my fondness for these slugs, worms and beetles. I believe that a connection and empathetic view towards tiny, insignificant creatures often leads to a more empathetic view of fellow humans. My intention with my sculpture creatures is to force that appreciation upon others. I create and utilize human-like disfigured forms, made of clay and styrofoam and adorn them with moss and man made plastic jewels and various craft materials. The goal is to create creatures similar to those I find in the forest, and adorn them with materials everyone would find beautiful. This allows viewers to become more comfortable with the uncomfortable. Developing an empathic relationship between the viewer and the beast is what I strive for.

I start my process with a form. It takes me quite some time to perfect this form in a way that successfully imitates living figures. Once the form is fully developed, I begin to pin and glue moss into the crevices of the figures, giving them an illusion of depth. The moss is essential in the process, helping me incorporate a bit of nature. All throughout the process of gluing, bugs, spiders, and worms all jump at me from within their miniature moss forests, reminding me of my purpose. Once the moss is in place, I begin to look for surface materials. I ask myself what familiar and beautiful materials can I cover my creatures with, that will make the viewer comfortable with the bug infested moss and eerily uncanny figures? I often opt for bulk gem beads, pink and purple paint card samples, and paper cones. All of which provide a safe and comfortable viewing experience. Once covered, I then begin my search for creature legs. The forms often feel unfinished without legs and lets the viewer know that they are encountering another being, rather than an inanimate object.

I have found that it is only fair to give these lively creatures a home. Drawing from the pink and purple manmade tones, I aim to place the beings in an environment that echoes their attributes. Oftentimes creatures of the forest imitate their surroundings with similar colors, textures and forms, in which they reside. Within my installation, I have attempted to do the same, going as far as to arrange their habitat in the shape of landmasses. Imitating nature, while bringing in the comfortability of non naturalistic materials, helps me create the ultimate indoor outdoor hybrid where humankind and the natural world meet again.