

MIT List Visual Arts Center

MIT List Visual Arts Center announces solo exhibition featuring recent and new sculptural works by Kathleen Ryan.



Kathleen Ryan, *Diana*, 2017.
Courtesy the artist and Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles.

November 16, 2018, Cambridge, MA—The List Center presents the North American premiere of California-raised, New York-based artist Kathleen Ryan. Working primarily in sculpture, Ryan’s work is distinguished by her virtuosic grasp of materials, ranging from poured concrete, cast iron, carved marble, and precious stones to found objects such as granite manufacturing blocks and bowling balls. She engages with formal sculptural concerns such as volume, weight, pressure, balance, and line, while subtly referencing the materials’ historical and economic underpinnings. At the List Center, Ryan will present a group of new sculptures in the museum’s Reference Gallery, providing the first full institutional showing of her work in North America and introducing New England audiences to her work.

Ryan, who was trained in archeology as well as art, frequently makes reference to ancient iconography. Her hanging sculpture *Diana* (2017), sharing a name with the Roman goddess of the hunt and of nature, resembles the fruit of a palm tree, with cast-iron husks that encapsulate

a teeming cluster of spherical rose quartz seeds. A new work in this series, using black onyx, is included in the Cambridge show.

Many of the artist's recent works were cast at a defunct blast furnace in Pennsylvania, alluding to a declining manufacturing industry that has shaped the economic and social trajectory of communities across the United States. The artist renders her massive industrial materials effortlessly light and delicate. As the works seem to levitate in spite of their manifest weight, Ryan also wrests a kind of poetry, and a sense of humor, from her unwieldy sources, as in new works in the exhibition made from a two-part industrial boiler or pearl necklaces made of bowling balls, fastened together with chandelier parts and arranged on the gallery floor.

Kathleen Ryan (b. 1984, Santa Monica) lives and works in New York. Solo exhibitions of her work have been mounted at Cc Foundation, Shanghai; Arsenal Contemporary, New York; Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna; Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles; and Josh Lilley, London. Her work has been featured in group exhibitions at Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, WENTRUP, Berlin; and many others. She holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kathleen Ryan is organized by Henriette Huldish, Director of Exhibitions & Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

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