



**NEWCOMB**

ART MUSEUM *at Tulane*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 6, 2016

Contact: Teresa Parker Farris  
tpfarris@tulane.edu  
w. 504.314.2406 | c. 504.343.0413

**KATE CLARK: MYSTERIOUS PRESENCE  
ANDREA DEZSÖ: I WONDER**

**Artists Adapt Traditional Crafts to Create New, Mysterious Forms**

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Guided by its recast mission and the Newcomb College legacy of artistic experimentation, the Newcomb Art Museum presents two exhibitions for the start of 2016: *Kate Clark: Mysterious Presence* and *Andrea Dezsö: I Wonder*. On view January 20 through April 10, the exhibitions present work by two contemporary artists who challenge the divide between art and craft.

“Both exhibitions pay homage to the spirit of the Newcomb enterprise,” noted museum director Mónica Ramírez-Montagut. “The two artists revisit traditional crafts in new and unexpected ways for twenty-first century art audiences.” In turn, the shows’ titles—and their references to mystery and wonderment—emphasize the often enigmatic nature of such novelty.

Kate Clark uses the centuries-old craft of taxidermy to sculpt humanlike faces onto bestial forms. Her hybridized sculptures are at once familiar yet strange, insinuating primal similarities linking the animal kingdom and examining humans’ place within the natural world.

Her sculptures’ strong presence also ironically evokes a sort of absence, rendering the figures aloof and mysterious. Clark notes, “They seem to be looking at the viewer but their gaze goes beyond.” Nonetheless, Clark’s forms directly confront us, encouraging and challenging our willingness to accept difference.

Andrea Dezsö works at the intersection of art, design, and craft, revising traditional “female” applied arts and imbuing them with a feminist subtext. Her multi-dimensional oeuvre includes embroidery, illustration, ceramics, Victorian Era-inspired carousel and pop-up books, drawings, and glass sculptures. Included in the exhibition will be a site-specific life-size tunnel book which the artist creates by stacking individually cut layers one in front of another.

Many of Dezsö’s works shed light on her childhood in Communist Romania where a stark physical existence stirred an expansion of her imagination. “I sometimes work with an imaginary landscape populated by a cast of imaginary characters,” she explains. Dezsö draws from dreams, anxieties, superstitions, and subconscious thoughts to create otherworldly works that are tender yet incisive and often irreverent.

In conjunction with the Newcomb Art Museum exhibition, Dezsö will create a site-specific mural at Tulane City Center (TCC) at 1725 Baronne Street. The work will be executed in collaboration with TCC workshop attendees. The installation will also be on view beginning January 20.

Funding for the shows comes in part through the generous support of the Joan Mitchell Foundation and the Newcomb College Institute.

# # #