



**A
Natural
Arrangement
of
Remarkable
Teeth**

ARTWORK BY HELEN QUINN





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KIPNZ

is pleased to present *A Natural Arrangement of Remarkable Teeth*, a new exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Helen Quinn.

This richly textured exhibition combines three of Quinn's bodies of work into an environment of magic, play and transformation. Quinn's training in textile design, as well as her interest in the flat, richly layered prints and paintings of the Edo period in 19th century Japan, inform the *Circus Rorschach* and *Totems* painting series on view. In these brilliantly hued, complex works, Quinn deploys a combination of screen printing, gouache, watercolor, pastels and ink on paper to create compositions of symmetrically stacked and overlapping curvilinear shapes. The *Circus Rorschach* series began as portraits of different stops on the 7 train in Queens but, for Quinn, has developed into something different. These paintings, meticulously constructed abstractions, allow for an articulation of memory and perceptions of fleeting moments: colorful phantoms of her daily commute. Having left a more representational approach behind, they have acquired the feel of modern illuminated manuscripts: ciphers of a time, place and people assembling and disassembling from view.

In Quinn's sculpture work, her longtime interest in animal mastheads of Viking ships shaped the series of animal heads that peer at us from the walls. They were begun as an instinctive response to the world's events beginning in 2020. For the artist, the idea that a natural or supernatural force could guide a ship – or one's life – through its storms gave them their power. Moreover the spirit of a ship was embodied in the masthead; it gave a face or personality, as well as protection, to the vessel as a temporary home.

Constructed in many layers of wire, papier-mâché, lightweight clay, and paint, the animals appear to be emerging from the walls, lifelike and dynamic. In this exchange between the artist and materials, and now the human and animal, these artworks inhabit a space between talisman, totem and portrait—posing the question of who is peering into whose world.

Helen Quinn lives and works in Queens, New York. She has shown her work internationally including the Czech Republic and Norway. She is the recipient of two New Works Grants from the Queens Council of the Arts in 2020 and 2022. She has attended numerous residencies including a year-long program in Japan with the Henry Luce Foundation and more recently at Poco a Poco in Oaxaca, Mexico. She holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Cover:
Fox, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint.
12 x 13 x 14 inches.

Cover and Page 1:
Circus Rorschach - Mask and Legs, 2023.
Gouache on watercolor paper.
20 x 14 inches.

Page 2:
Walrus, 2023.
Papier-mâché, yarn, lime paint.
15 x 13 x 14 inches.



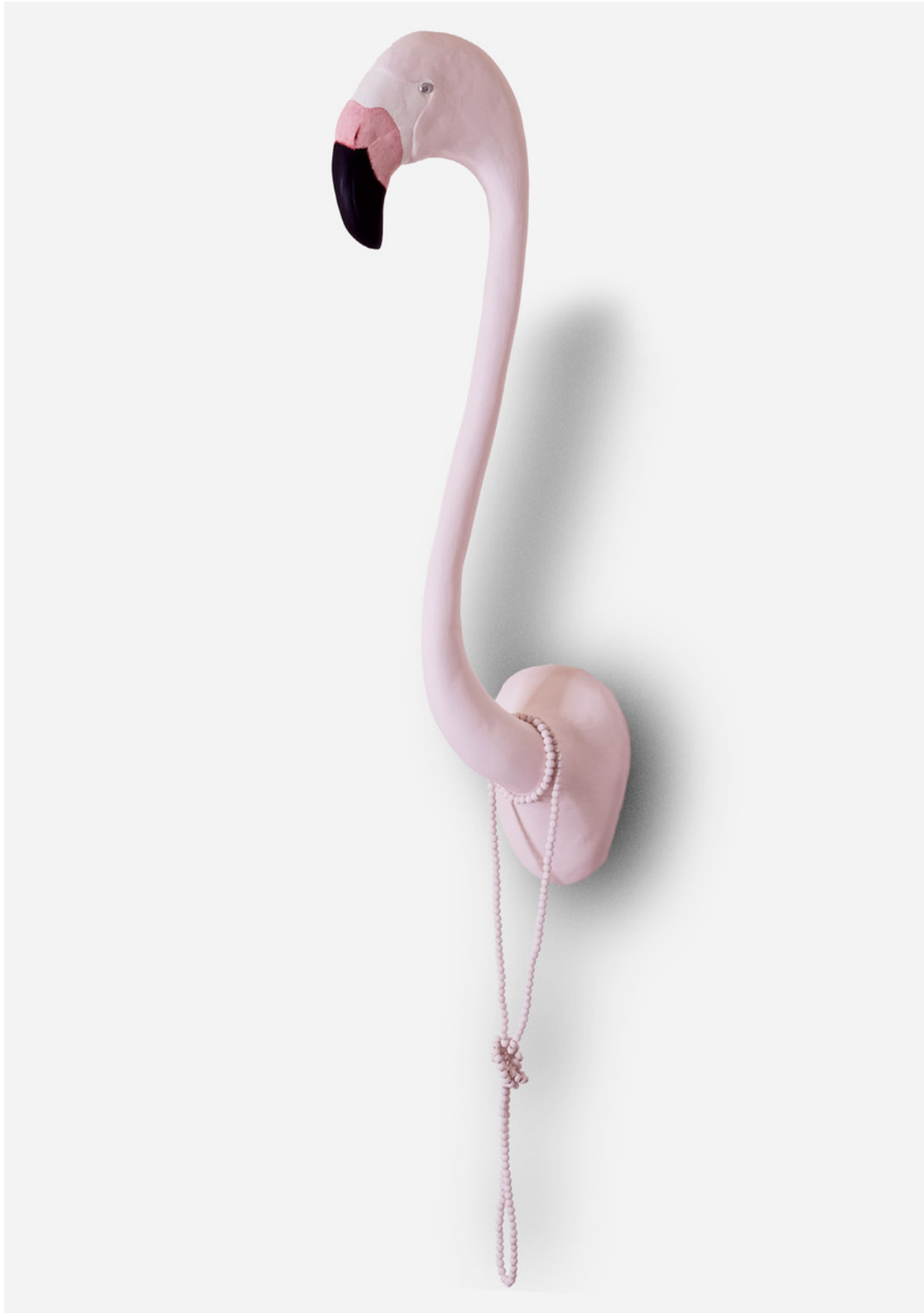
Circus Rorschach - 74th Street, Jackson Heights, no. 3, 2023.
Gouache on watercolor paper, 20 x 14 inches.



Circus Rorschach - Matcha and Persimmons, 2023.
Gouache on watercolor paper, 20 x 14 inches.



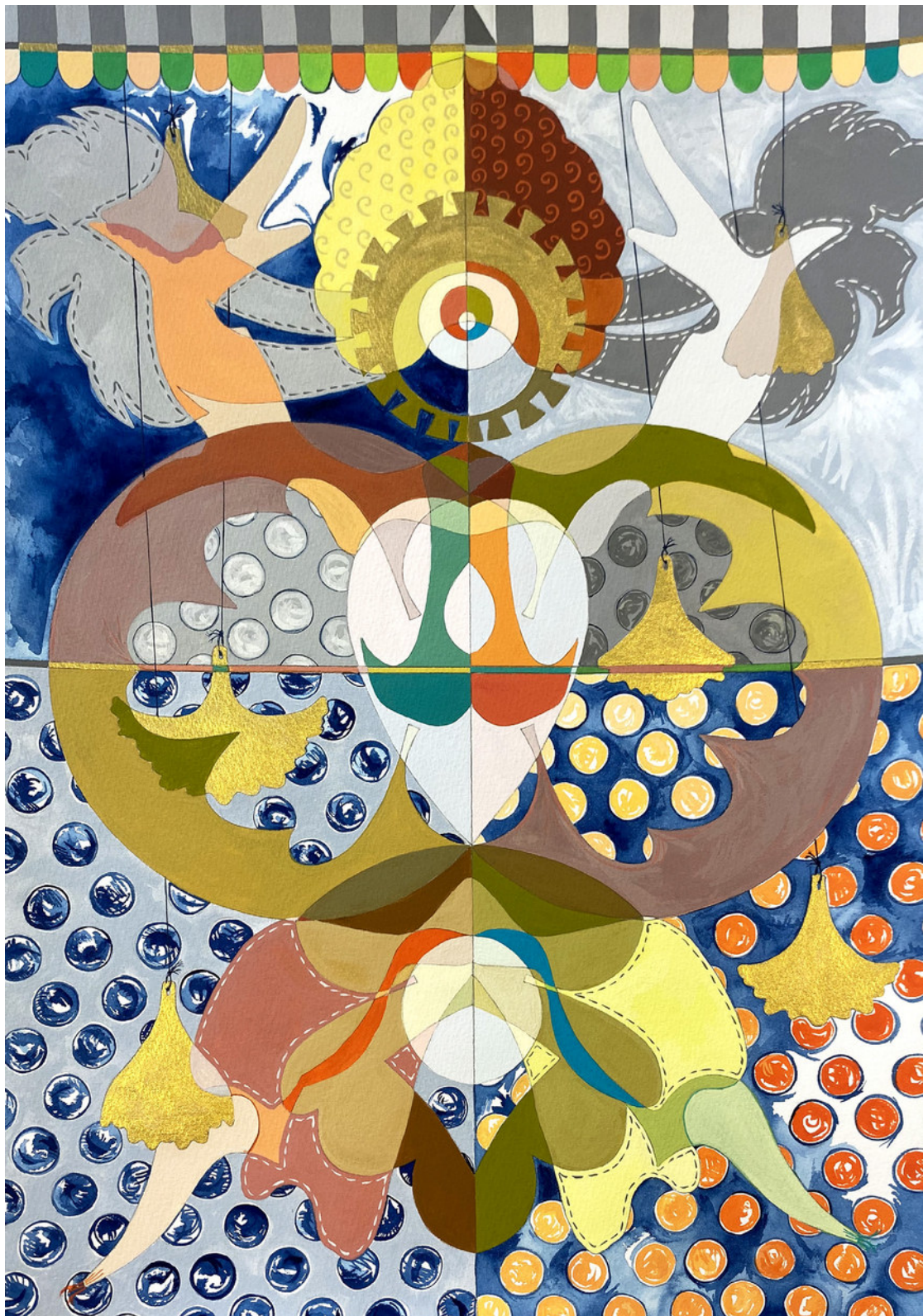
Narwhal, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 30 x 14 x 26 inches.



Flamingo, 2023.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 39 x 11 x 12 inches.



Oaxaca Totem 6, 2018.
Silkscreen, gouache and collage on painted paper, 34 x 25 inches.



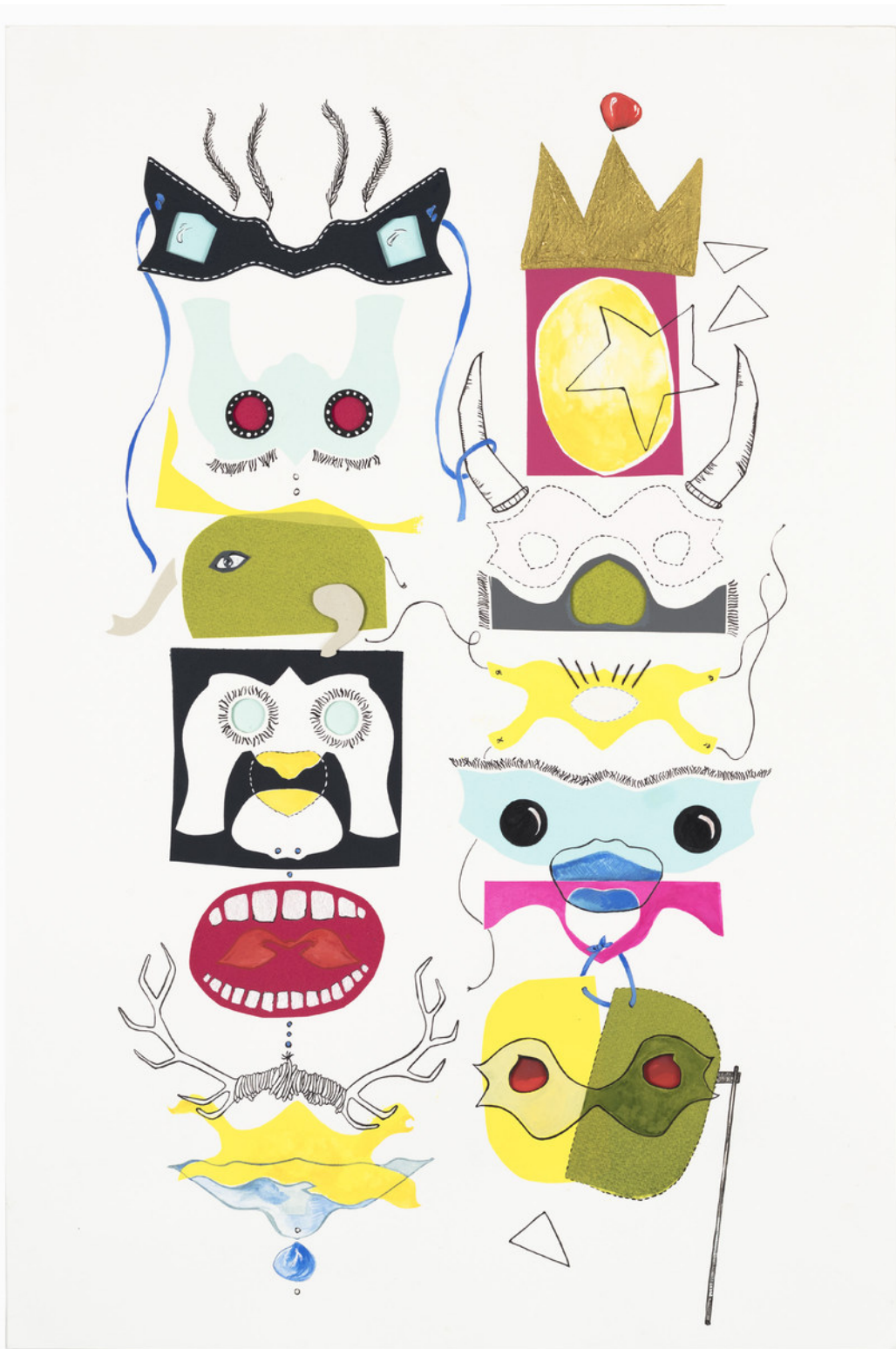
Circus Rorschach - Bubble Wrap and Ginkgo Leaves, 2023.
Gouache on watercolor paper, 20 x 14 inches.



Bear at Night, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 16 x 12 x 16 inches.



Hare, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, monofilament, 32 x 13 x 11 inches.



New York Taxonomy, 2018.
Silkscreen, gouache, gold leaf and collage on painted paper, 30 x 21 inches.



Tall Oaxaca Totem, 2018.
Silkscreen, gouache and collage on painted paper, 92 x 14 inches.



Bison, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 22 x 16 x 15 inches.



Arctic Swan, 2023.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 24 x 16 x 12 inches.



Circus Rorschach- 82nd Street, Jackson Heights, 2020.
Gouache on watercolor paper, 20 x 14 inches.



Circus Rorschach - Diamond Fish, 2022.
Gouache on watercolor paper, 20 x 14 inches.



Fox, 2020.
Papier-mâché, lime paint, 12 x 13 x 14 inches.

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