



John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Ways of Being

Sarah McEneaney and Lydia Ricci: The Extra Ordinary

August 18, 2022–February 26, 2023

Artists have always drawn inspiration from their homes. Sarah McEneaney and Lydia Ricci mine the objects and events that animate and populate their everyday lives to highlight the constant presence of exciting potential in seemingly ordinary circumstances.

Through her daily practice of meticulously painting images of her home and studio, and the happenings within those spaces, McEneaney examines the rich opportunities for reflection that abound around us. She, and her pets, inhabit a lushly colored and detailed haven where activities and events such as drinking water and a rainstorm unfold into poetic moments of meaning.

Ricci's miniature objects, made from obsessively hoarded scrap materials act as stand-ins for emotionally charged experiences and relationships. Their diminutive scale provides a safe distance for contemplation of the difficult situations or memories they contain.

Both artists' bodies of work cohere into entire worlds—full of characters, drama, and plot twists—from the (un)limited surroundings of their homes and studios.

ABOUT THE JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC), located north of Milwaukee in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is known for promoting the understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through exhibitions and commissioned works of art. Founded in 1967, JMKAC has preserved, studied, and exhibited artist-built environments, earning a worldwide reputation. Art environments involve an individual significantly transforming their surroundings into an exceptional, multifaceted work of art.

The Arts Center's downtown Sheboygan facility includes eight galleries, two performance spaces, a café, a museum shop, and a drop-in art-making studio. Among its program offerings are community arts projects; artist residencies; presentations of dance, film, and music; a free weekly summer concert series; classes and workshops; an onsite arts-based preschool; and approximately twelve original exhibitions of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists annually. JMKAC also administers the renowned Arts/Industry residency program, which is hosted by Kohler Co.