

**Davina Semo**  
on  
**Selections Of A Thing Finder/or/A Collection Of Naturally  
Occurring Voids**



**Q: What was the beginning of this work?**

**A: The work I'm showing at Alicia is a selection of objects from my collection of natural materials. I have been collecting rocks and natural materials since I was a kid, but this particular branch of the collection started as I was**

thinking about bells in 2016. I started making bells in the studio, and thinking about them more broadly—historically and in a contemporary context. A flood of bell forms entered my consciousness, especially forms occurring in nature. I began collecting these things with the idea in mind that I would translate these forms into bronze bells.

All of these objects have a relationship to a void space. This interior space is of great interest to me—and is of central interest to me in the bells. This inner space is something I resonate with as a metaphor for inner space more broadly, as a space of thought and of feeling.

**Q: Where did it happen?**

**A: I was living in San Francisco, and spending a lot of time in nature all around the Bay Area—especially Mt Sutro, Glen Park, Stern Grove, Presidio, McLaren, Golden Gate Park, all over Marin, in areas around the Russian River, and in the Redwoods.**

**Q: How did you feel about it in the beginning?**

**A: Like many beginnings, all in—**

**Q: How do you feel about it now?**

**A: Active — moving to LA has introduced many new plants and natural forms into my consciousness. I find when I travel**

to new places in general, I'm always noticing things with holes — animal holes, seed pods, textures in the ground and in wood, stone, plants, all over. I live in Altadena in the foothills of Angeles National Forest, where we spend a lot of our time.

**Q: What changes occurred in your life while making it?**

**A: Collecting happens over many years, and it accommodates all forms of life changes. What hasn't changed in the last six years—**

**Q: How have you been changed since making it?**

**A: I experience change often. I have always been collecting, it's a kind of addition I've enjoyed for many years. With this collection specifically, I have been changed by always being hyper-aware of objects with holes in them, or inner cavities, or things that spiral towards an invisible inside space.**

**Q: When you were making this, did you exclusively focus on it or were you working on other things simultaneously?**

**A: While in the moment of collecting, that's all I was focusing on, but I have made so many other things while this collection has grown.**

**Q: Did you make notes or sketches for it?**

**A: No**

**Q: Do you concern yourself with your reasons for making it?**

**A: Yes, the making is the reason in this case**

**Q: Are you trying to evoke specific feelings for other people with it?**

**A: No**

**Q: What were your most important tools in the process of making this?**

**A: “I’m a thing-finder” (, said Pippi). My tools are my eyes, my personality, my computer, my car. I like to go into nature and look around, and I like to go online and look around.**

**Q: What quality of your personality do you associate with it?**

**A: Longing**

**Q: How long do you intend for this to live in the world?**

**A: I read the question as, how long do you intend to live in the world. But then I read it again. These objects come from nature and each one has its own lifespan. Some of the objects are already disintegrating. Some of them, like the**

rocks and shells, will outlive us. I have no intention as to how long these objects live in the world.