

Mateo Tannatt

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1. Death Mask is a likeness typically made in plaster, is a cast of a person's face after their death, usually made by taking a cast or impression from the corpse. Death masks may be mementos of the dead or be used for the creation of portraits.
2. A popular nineteenth-century death mask, "The Lady of the Seine," was rumored to have been cast from a drowning victim. In an irony of fate, the mask later served as the dummy upon which medics learned to perform CPR.
3. Apotropaic magic or what is hidden in your walls and drawers may be protecting you from harm or evil influences. A group of works in aluminum cast in both sand and ceramic shell investigate the influence of gesture as it relates to superstition and protection through object-oriented language.

In the exhibition *The Second Hundred Years*, residual artifacts—a death mask, protective objects, and figurative gestures—unwittingly find themselves in unlikely places, disclosing their layered and heterogenous histories. Replicated objects are detached from some original context but share features with their earlier versions.

They might draw out latent attributes or erase visible ones, containing and transforming the originals to various degrees. In these works, the artifact dialogically is preserved through plastic means, through concavity and convexity, expansion, or compression, and shifts in color, scale, texture, and storytelling.