

## NOON Projects Presents

### *I Am Vertical*

By Johanna Jackson

Curated by  
Libby Werbel

October 27 –  
December 9, 2023

Opening:  
October 27, 2023, 7 – 9 PM

NOON Projects is a gallery in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Our program showcases artists who work from the heart, with a focus on queerness, the divine, the natural world, craft, and social practices. We host an ongoing program of dinners, concerts, meditation groups, and community happenings.

We aim to create a welcoming space for artists and the community to connect and flourish. Please come by and see us – you are very welcome here.

NOON Projects is honored to present *I Am Vertical*, a solo exhibition by Johanna Jackson, curated by Libby Werbel. In *I Am Vertical*, Werbel has asked Jackson to share a new body of functional sculptures. These works, created specifically to be hung from trees, reference a horticultural tradition of wrapping large river rocks with wire and hanging them from branches to encourage new directions in growth. This practice is similar to the technique of *espalier*, and is based on the concept of gravitropism, “the coordinated process of differential growth by a plant in response to gravity.” These weights train branches to grow more horizontally, creating space between them to amplify exposure to the sun and ultimately help the tree bear more fruit.

In place of traditional river stones, Jackson has meticulously crafted an array of tiny clay shapes, tying them together in long strands which create a series of symbolic compositions. This body of work exhibits the familiar visual language of Jackson’s signature style; pastel tones in amorphous shapes slowly reveal themselves to be representations of tangible objects: a pomegranate, a penny, a candle, a slice of cake. This assortment of both familiar and unfamiliar symbols, hung vertically, can be read from top to bottom, or vice versa, as visual poems. To accompany this series of hanging poems, Jackson also shares a selection of drawings inspired by the precious things trees produce and hold: fruit, flowers, spiderwebs.

Like much of Jackson’s work, it’s easy to interpret these pieces as being imbued with a magical quality; a series of charms or spells meant to protect and encircle, to create an opportunity for dialogue with a divine not-knowing, to welcome in the sun, and also to remind us that we can bend, be influenced and change our orientation to our surroundings.

Jackson’s practice is often dedicated to creating utilitarian form through self-taught craft. She states, “I am interested in the role of objects in a good life. What could a thing do?” She is most known for her vessels made of porcelain—large vases, tiny cups and asymmetrical bowls—as well as textile work made up of quilted pillows and blankets that adorn pieces of furniture in her own home and those of collectors and institutions.

This is the first time Jackson is showing this body of work. When hung vertically *en masse* on a tree, these individual poems become an anthology, and the sculptures themselves work together to create a proto container. The bent branches slowly and inevitably reveal a bowl of negative space, drawing apart their physical offshoots to hold something intangible: the light, and the potential of new fruit.

–Libby Werbel





Johanna Jackson  
*Grandmothers Head, one Green Eye one Blue Eye, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
3 x 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Red Eyed Spider, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
2 1/2 x 1 x 1 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Full Refrigerator and Baby's Shoe, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
6 x 3 x 1 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Cherry with Mapped Orange bereft of a Slice with a perfectly round Hedge and a Blue Guitar, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
23 x 4 x 4 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Forward facing divided Cake, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
3 x 3 x 1 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Forward facing divided Cake, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
3 x 3 x 1 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable





Johanna Jackson  
*Lightbulb, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
3 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Remainders of divided Fruits and Cakes, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
21 x 3 x 2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Small Imprecise Truck Pouring into a large Truck which is itself Pouring Up, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
13 x 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Blue Spirit Being and Orange and White Dog (Spirit Being), 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
6 x 4 x 2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Black Lime Remainder and Umbrella, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
6 x 4 1/2 x 2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Soft Hamburger, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 3 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Apple and three Coins, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
9 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Woods Clown and a Cherry, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
6.5 x 2.5 x 2.5 in.  
Installed dimensions variable







Johanna Jackson  
*How to Draw a Dog, a Basket on Fire, a Cherry Cordial, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
14 1/2 x 4 x 3 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*A Real Pearl Necklace, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
21 x 3 x 1 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Ice Cream Cone with Snake already in it, a Magic Apple Accompanied by a Magic Worm and one of my Dad's  
Baby Shoes., 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
20 x 4 x 3 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson

*The Most Used Enameled Pan Sprouting Food, a Still Apple, a Melted Form Baby Bottle, a Raspberry!, 2023*

Glazed porcelain and cord

14 x 6 x 2 1/2 in.

Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*TOnce Cent Two Free Forms, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
12 x 4 1/2 x 2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Propeller, Helicopter, Dropped water and a version of the same in a less Figurative Instantiation, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
12 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 3 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Shards of a Broken Bottle of Joy, slice off an Orange, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
13 x 4 1/2 x 2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable





Johanna Jackson  
*A Spider, a Chunk of the Wall that Seemed so Permanent, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
9 x 5 x 2 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Divided Black Lime, Partial Pomegranate, Bird's Egg, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
14 x 3 x 3 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson

*A Baby's Bottle two thirds full, a curled shape made for and made by clutching in a gentle fist with relaxed fingers,  
a Fly and a Piece of last night's sky, 2023*

Glazed porcelain and cord

15 x 4 1/2 x 3 in.

Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Late Late Summer Yellow Jackets fighting and an Angel, 2023*  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
7 x 6 x 3 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Cat giving birth in Semi-obscurety*, 2023  
Glazed porcelain and cord  
6 x 5 x 2 1/2 in.  
Installed dimensions variable



Johanna Jackson  
*Roses in the states of budding, blooming, aging and dying, 2023*  
Watercolor on paper (framed)  
8 1/4 x 6 3/4 in. (21 x 17.25 cm)  
21 x 17 1/4 in. (53.3 x 43.8 cm) framed



Johanna Jackson  
*Day lit spider behind their web, 2023*  
Watercolor on paper (framed)  
8 1/4 x 6 3/4 in. (21 x 17.25 cm)  
21 x 17 1/4 in. (53.3 x 43.8 cm) framed



Johanna Jackson  
*Roses in states of dying, aging, blooming and budding, 2023*  
Watercolor on paper (framed)  
8 1/4 x 6 3/4 in. (21 x 17.25 cm)  
21 x 17 1/4 in. (53.3 x 43.8 cm) framed





Johanna Jackson  
*I am vertical, 2023*  
Watercolor on paper (framed)  
8 1/4 x 6 3/4 in. (21 x 17.25 cm)  
21 x 17 1/4 in. (53.3 x 43.8 cm) framed



Johanna Jackson  
*Older rose, 2023*  
Watercolor on paper (framed)  
6 3/4 x 8 1/4 in. (17.25 x 21 cm)  
17 1/4 x 21 in. (43.8 x 53.3 cm) framed



Johanna Jackson  
*Apical meristem*, 2023  
Glazed porcelain  
8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6 in.



Johanna Jackson  
*Compound Fruit*, 2023  
Glazed porcelain  
8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6 in.

## Biography Johanna Jackson

Johanna Jackson (born 1972 in Springfield, Massachusetts) currently lives and works in Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon. Solo and two-person exhibitions include: “bow bow” with Sahar Khoury at CANADA, New York; “The Middle Riddle” with Chris Johanson at the Journal Gallery, Brooklyn; “What It Means to Learn” with Dana Dart-McLean at Human Resources in Los Angeles; “The Big Fig” at the Portland Museum of Modern Art, Oregon; and “Money on Fire,” a video commission for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. Her work has also been exhibited in group shows at the Oakland Museum of California; Marlborough Gallery, New York; Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; among others.

**NOON**

NOON Projects  
951 Chung King Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday  
Noon–6pm  
Or by Appointment

971 341 6648  
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info@noon-projects.com

## Biography Libby Werbel

Libby Werbel is an artist, curator, and community organizer based in Portland, OR. In 2012, she founded the Portland Museum of Modern Art (PMOMA) to instigate discourse around what a community-built museum could look like through the lens of institutional critique. With an emphasis on accessibility and engagement, Werbel has received public and critical acclaim for her subversive organization methods and creative mobility. Werbel recently fulfilled a two year position as Visiting Artistic Director at the Portland Art Museum, where she created five unique exhibitions, encouraging audiences to think critically about how museums have traditionally granted access to art and knowledge and what the future of the Institution could look like, titled *We.Construct.Marvels.Between.Monuments.* and has published a book under the same title.

Werbel currently serves as the Director of the lumber room, an exhibition space for the prestigious Miller Meigs Collection. She has overseen the development of its public programming since 2017, and has art directed two publications during her tenure there; *This Cookbook is Made For the 5th Dimension*, Susan Cianciolo, 2021 and the forthcoming *The Quick*, Diedrick Brackens and D'Angelo Lovell Williams, 2023. She has curated site-based exhibitions, partnering with artists and institutions for the MCASB, Santa Barbara, PAM, Portland, (W)here Is The Love(?), Barcelona, Mission17, San Francisco, Big Love Records, Tokyo, Garth's Boulder Garden with Thousand Points of Light and High Desert Test Sites, Joshua Tree, and Pioneer Courthouse Square as a part of the Time Based Arts Festival, Portland. She is a two time recipient of the Precipice Grant, a funding initiative of The Andy Warhol Foundation distributed through Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, for projects developed on the edge of new practice. Werbel additionally teaches in the MFA Studio Art program at Portland State University, and has sat on various selection juries and committees for the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Oregon Arts Commission, Ford Family Foundation, PICA, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Disjecta, and the National Visual Artist Network.

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