

NOON Projects Presents

Venus Freak

By
Maddy Inez

May 11 – June 15,
2024

Opening: May 11, 2024
6–9pm

NOON Projects proudly presents *Venus Freak* by Los Angeles-based artist Maddy Inez, her debut solo exhibition with the gallery. Drawing inspiration from alchemical symbolism and the melding of magic and science, *Venus Freak* delves into the profound connection between humanity, soil, and nature. Inez explores the essence of raw earth, drawing parallels between agricultural systems, soil preservation, and colonialism. Through a collection of ceramic sculptures and wall hangings embodying the spirits of medicinal plants essential for soil remediation, including Sunflowers, Dandelions, and Stinging Nettle, the exhibition challenges conventional notions of beauty and value in nature while weaving metaphors of female sexuality and intergenerational knowledge.

“Maddy Inez cares for those plants that are unloved, labeled weeds, wildflowers without beauty but imbued with regenerative properties – medicine for us all. She studies botanical illustrations of sunflowers, dandelion, stinging nettle, penny cress, clover, and mustard, not Narcissus, their eternal labor and gifts are neither beauty nor vanity. These plants retain knowledge outside of time, remembering how to remove toxins and heal the soil.

Inez’s responsibility is to both to express the essential beauty and poetry of this matter as dimensional embodiments of relationships of care, and to tend to the physical realities of this symbiosis. As art and gardening are foundational knowledges taught to her by her mother and grandmother, this generational wisdom is a metaphor for the captive maternal care these plants and the soil provide. “Soil is the womb and deathbed of all life on our planet,” she writes in her description of *Venus Freak*, her solo exhibition that is an ode to these phenomena that overcome colonization and extraction to ensure the health of everything.

Standing sculptures and wall hangings in *Venus Freak* immerse the viewer in the cyclic nature of beingness. Antecedents provide the building blocks of what follows, passing on memories of life and death, the language of renewal. We experience these phases as weighty yet intangible structure and Inez’s minimalist approach in the space provides a similar alchemic ethereality – the whole exceeding the sum of the parts. Amplifying the stories of the misused and forgotten is inherently political, and Inez fortifies her duty to this work with the poetry of Audre Lorde, Harryette Mullen, bell hooks and other world building women whose languages shape and hold space for our survival.

Rooted with love and power, the full spectrum of light and darkness exists in Inez’s making. She demands a covenant, respect and protection for loamy soil as the architecture of life outside of the boundaries of aesthetic beauty. Refusing the term abject, Inez focuses on the life-sustaining qualities necessary for the biodiversity that we must all agree is the natural beauty of our world. She concentrates on the plurality that makes life fecund, teeming with verdant landscapes, ideas and knowledges. Channeling this trinity, Inez often creates her sculptures in three parts, signifying the building blocks of nature and her own legacy as the daughter and granddaughter of legendary artists.

Venus Freak is revolutionary – as Macy Gray’s song about feminine sexual freedom, as Inez’s mother and grandmother’s labor to expand aesthetics to include radical Black imaginaries and as the transformative materiality of the clay body that she returns to the earth in the form of elemental homage. Inez seamlessly integrates these disparate narratives not to position herself in a hierarchy of change agents, but to assert that revolution is by necessity female and horizontal. There is no room for Eden’s order, but the illumination of generational – gendered and generative – sharing of and caring for the fullness of our connections to one another and to the earth.“

–jill moniz

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
951 Chung King Road
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday
Noon–6pm
And by Appointment

+ 1 971 341 6648
noon-projects.com
info@noon-projects.com

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Maddy Inez
Imago, 2022
Glazed stoneware
45 x 22 x 12 1/2 in. | 114.3 x 55.9 x 31.8 cm



Maddy Inez
Solastalgia, 2024
Glazed stoneware
50 x 21 x 11 in. | 127 x 53.3 x 27.9 cm



Maddy Inez
Lilith's Balm, 2024
Glazed stoneware
24 1/2 x 16 x 13 1/2 in. | 62.2 x 40.6 x 34.3 cm



Maddy Inez
Bloomy Tincture, 2024
Glazed stoneware
18 x 9 1/2 x 10 in. | 45.7 x 24.1 x 25.4 cm



Maddy Inez
Dirt Diviner, 2024
Glazed stoneware
18 x 16 x 7 in. | 45.7 x 40.6 x 17.8 cm



Maddy Inez
Edged with Pollen, 2024
Glazed stoneware
18 x 13 x 8 in. | 45.7 x 33 x 20.3 cm



Maddy Inez
Gaia Guts, 2024
Glazed stoneware
18 1/2 x 10 x 7 1/2 in. | 47 x 25.4 x 19.1 cm



Maddy Inez
Hesperia, 2024
Glazed stoneware
9 x 9 1/2 x 6 in. | 22.9 x 24.1 x 15.2 cm



Maddy Inez
Mud Angel, 2024
Glazed stoneware
10 x 9 x 6 1/2 in. | 25.4 x 22.9 x 16.5 cm



Maddy Inez
Sprout Sirup, 2024
Glazed stoneware
10 x 6 1/2 x 6 in. | 25.4 x 16.5 x 15.2 cm



Maddy Inez
Sunra's Kin, 2024
Glazed stoneware
10 1/2 x 8 1/2 x 25 1/2 in. | 26.7 x 21.6 x 64.8 cm



Maddy Inez
Germ Brooder, 2023
Glazed stoneware
13 x 12 x 2 in. | 33 x 30.5 x 5.1 cm



Maddy Inez
Loamy Love Letter, 2024
Glazed stoneware
13 x 11 x 2 in. | 33 x 27.9 x 5.1 cm



Maddy Inez
Mycelium Mender, 2024
Glazed stoneware
17 x 9 1/2 x 3 in. | 43.2 x 24.1 x 7.6 cm



Maddy Inez
Spore Salve, 2024
Glazed stoneware
12 x 11 x 1 in. | 30.5 x 27.9 x 2.5 cm

Biography
Maddy Inez



Maddy Inez is a multidisciplinary artist working in sculpture, ceramics and printmaking. Maddy attended the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon and currently resides in Los Angeles.

Maddy uses the elements of earth, water and fire to investigate themes of the body and healing. Drawing inspiration from mythology, generational magic, and herbal practices she processes trauma through clay. Her creative practice also includes the recurring themes of water, its history, lore and its relationship to power. Her vessels are votives of ancestral alchemy, memory and process.

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CV
Maddy Inez

Born 1993, Los Angeles, California
Lives and works in Los Angeles

Education

2016 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Pacific Northwest College of Arts Portland, OR

Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Venus Freak*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2023 *Incantation* (with Gwen Hollingsworth), South Willard, Los Angeles, CA
2022 *Of Pith and Balm*, Harkawik Gallery, New York NY
2021 *Damp Earth*, Harkawik Gallery, Los Angeles CA
2016 *Fallen Angel*, PNCA Portland OR

Group Exhibitions

2024 Feria Material, NOON Projects, Mexico City
2023 The Bunker Art Space, West Palm Beach, FL
Barro Barrio, Guerrero Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
South Willard, Gordon Robichaux, New York
Mother, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Feria Material, NOON Projects, Mexico City
2022 *Adornment Artifact*, Crenshaw Plaza and Band of Vices, Los Angeles
Curated by Transformative Arts, CA
NADA, Harkawik, New York, NY
Earth House Hold, Murmurs, Los Angeles CA
Obscurity and the Unknown, Sebastian Gladstone, Los Angeles CA
Doing Our Own Thing, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC), Los Angeles CA
2021 *Possibility Mad Read: Drawing & Clay*, Gallery 1226, Dallas, TX
Speech Sounds, Harkawik, New York NY
2020 *Mojo Rising*, Ronald H. Silverman Gallery, Los Angeles CA 2018
Weekend at Bernice, Bernice Place, Los Angeles CA
2017 *Weekend at Bernice*, Bernice Place, Los Angeles CA
Wet, Project 205, Portland, OR
2016 *Basement of Yolk*, OV Gallery, Portland, OR
Crumbs of Paper, Littman Gallery, Portland, OR
Subterrain, Oey Vey Gallery, Portland, OR
In Context, Roberts Projects, Los Angeles CA

Residencies

2019 Conduit, Portland, OR
2017 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT

Selected Press

2023 "Artists Pay Homage to Histories Preserved and Forgotten," Jennifer Re menchik, Hyperallergic, June 20
2022 "Meet the Saar family of artists, Alison Saar, Betye Saar, and Maddy Lees er featured in the INSPIRATION," Craft in America, December 16