

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Rude Awakening*

28.05. -  
12.07.2025

Mindy Rose Schwartz is a Chicago-based sculptor and installation artist whose work draws on personal memory and vernacular craft traditions—macramé, ceramics, papier-mâché—to conjure objects that feel both familiar and uncanny. Her practice challenges conventional distinctions between fine art and craft, creating spaces where humor, affect, and critical reflection are held in dynamic tension. Through this multifaceted approach, Schwartz offers a nuanced perspective on the emotional and cultural dimensions of everyday objects, inviting audiences to engage with the complexities of memory, identity, and material culture.

In *Rude Awakening*, Schwartz presents work that confronts the unsettling ethos of our current moment—marked by environmental crisis, the erosion of social structures, and the failures of systems once thought stable. Here, the “canary in the coal mine” becomes more than a warning; it is transformed into a sentimental object, a fragile keepsake from a world on the brink.

Emerging in the 1990s, Schwartz's work resonates with the feminist art movement's emphasis on personal narratives, domestic materials, and the reevaluation of traditional craft. Her engagement with materials like macramé and ceramics aligns with the reclamation of “women's work” as a valid and potent form of artistic expression. This approach situates her within a lineage of feminist artists who have sought to blur the boundaries between art and craft, challenging hierarchical distinctions and advocating for the inclusion of diverse forms of creative labor. Schwartz's work can be seen as a generational continuation of this legacy while addressing the unique anxieties of the present—particularly ecological collapse, spiritual disorientation, and the commodification of healing.

Mindy Rose Schwartz lives and works in Chicago. Recent solo exhibitions include: Interstate Projects in New York City, US (2021), Et. Al. Gallery in San Francisco, US (2020), Balice Hertling in Paris, FR, (2017) and Queer Thoughts in New York City, US (2017). Selected group exhibitions include: Artists Space in New York City, US (2025), King's Leap in New York City (2024), Tatjana Pieters Gallery in Ghent, BE (2021), The Renaissance Society in Chicago, US (2018), Room E-10 27 in Berlin, DE (2018), Carlos Ishikawa in London, UK (2018), Cooper Cole in Toronto, CA (2017), Alter Space in Los Angeles, US (2016), Galerie Hussenot in Paris, FR (2015) and Arcadia Missa, UK (2015).

In addition to her artistic practice, Schwartz contributes to the academic discourse on craft and sculpture as an instructor in the Sculpture Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her course, Extreme Craft, examines traditional sculpture and craft processes in relation to notions of taste, class, gender, and age.

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Rude Awakening

Staircase:

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Incense Cones, 2025*  
Paper, tape, pigment, essential oils, aqua raisin  
24 units: 6 cones à 31,5 x 9 cm  
6 cones à 23 x 7,5 cm  
6 cones à 18 x 7 cm  
6 cones à 13 x 6 cm

Red Cinnabar + Sandalwood essential oil  
Red Iron Oxide + Cinnamon essential oil  
Yellow Iron Oxide, Lemon Yellow + Lemongrass essential oil  
Viridian Pigment + Vetiver essential oil  
Milor Blue Pigment + Peppermint essential oil  
Black iron oxide + Clove essential oil

Wall based works from left to right:

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Animal, 2025*  
Rabbit fur, upholstery fabric, belt, glue, thread  
167,5 x 142 x 5 cm

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Wand 1, 2025*  
Aluminium wire, paper, epoxy clay, crystals, black tourmaline, gold lame thread, waxed linen thread, metal clips for material intervention, feathers, drusy agate, astrological election chart, orphic hymn to Venus, night sky map  
142 x 67 x 7 cm

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Wand 2, 2025*  
Aluminium wire, paper, epoxy clay, crystals, black tourmaline, gold lame thread, waxed linen thread, mother of pearl bracelets, metal clips for material intervention, feathers, drusy agate, astrological election chart, orphic hymn to Venus, night sky map  
202 x 73 x 5 cm

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Wand 3, 2025*  
Aluminium wire, paper, epoxy clay, crystals, black tourmaline, gold lame thread, metal clips for material intervention, feathers, drusy agate, astrological election chart, orphic hymn to Venus, night sky map  
112 x 61 x 12 cm

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Portraits, 2018*  
Upholstery fabric, crystal earrings, fibrefill  
50,8 x 71 x 7,5 cm

Floor based works:

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Canary in the Coalmine (Music Box), 2021*  
Porcelain, music box mechanism  
Dimensions variable

Mindy Rose Schwartz  
*Ghost, 2019*  
Wood, paper, polyester, acrylic paint  
15,5 x 10 x 7,5 cm

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