

Today is Cracki's Birthday. All of Cracki's friends are coming and the room is full of cakes and presents. Cracki's been dreaming of a big party for months, and we're gonna blow it out for her, candles and all. Cracki has given us so many special gifts, we want to do the same for her.

Maggie Lee is expert at finding things you know you saw somewhere but you didn't. Her combinations of memories, dreams and narrative imagination are self-contained, her materials chosen for maximum potential to become chimeras. Maggie uses things that are recognizable but puts them together in ways that aren't. It barely makes sense. Of course if you put gift wrap and ribbon around a canvas that makes it a present. Put candles on it and it's a cake.

But the most affecting element of Maggie Lee's work is its emotional essentiality. It feels like we know Cracki, like Cracki's birthday is everyone's birthday, like Maggie somehow saw everything backwards in the mirror and snapped it all into place. Knowing she's there making everyone's memories into her own dreams.

And there's such comfort in that.

Maggie Lee (1987, US) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Recent solo exhibitions include: Cracki's Birthday, Édouard Montassut, Paris (2019); Music Videos, Arcadia Missa, London (2018); Maggie Lee, Lomex, New York (2017); Gigi's Underground, 356 Mission, Los Angeles (2016); Fufu's Dream House, Real Fine Arts, New York (2016); Dream a Lil Dream, LadyBug House, San Francisco (2015). Recent group exhibitions include: Oeuvres de la collection Lafayette Anticipations, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (upcoming); Daisy Chain, A.D., New York (2019); The Moon Represents My Heart: Music, Memory and Belongings, MOCA, New York (2019); The New York's Artists Memorial Garden, Jackson Square Park, New York (2019, until April 2029); Reset, Kai Matsumiya, New York (2019); Trances, Mother Culture, Los Angeles (2018); Billboard on Bowery, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York (2017); Group Show, Édouard Montassut, Paris (2017); Speak, Lokal, Kunstalle Zürich (2017); Homo Mundus Minor, T293, Roma (2017); Mirror Cells, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016); How to Cut Your Throat and Smile, Schloss, Oslo, Norway (2016); Summer Group Show, Greene Naftali, New York (2015).

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