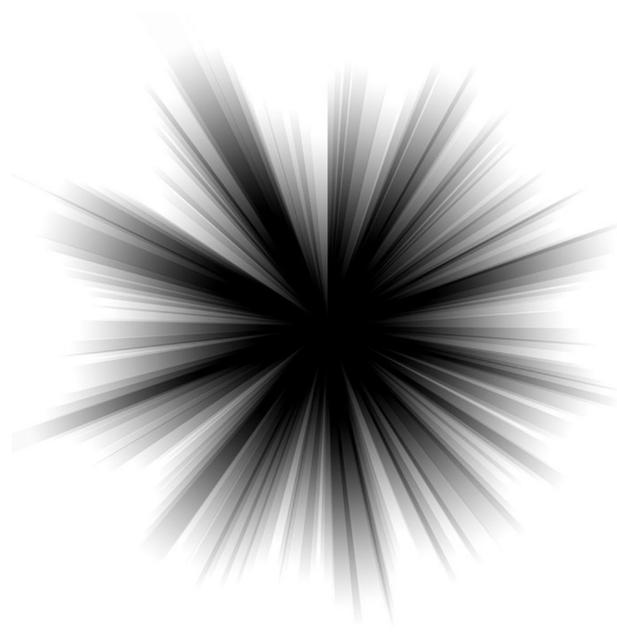


WE NEED TO DO MORE: magical thinking

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Paky Vlassopoulou



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Considering the multifaceted interpretation of the phrase „we need to do more: magical thinking," Paky Vlassopoulou embraces the notion of magical thinking associated with children's immersion in fantastical imaginary worlds. This understanding facilitates the development of children's ability to perceive and interact with the world from diverse perspectives. Through the embrace of magical thinking, children can explore imaginative realms, fostering nuanced understandings of reality. In line with this concept, the artist proposes to revisit this state of mind by creating shelters for various creatures, aiming to cultivate a sense of security and belonging.

The sculptures themselves are meticulously crafted on a small scale, resembling a blend of miniatures and models. This deliberate sizing encourages viewers to physically engage with the artworks, sparking their imagination through a mental play of magnification and shrinking. Constructed from clay, these works draw inspiration from earthly elements and traditional architectural forms, evoking both historical and futuristic sensibilities.

The miniature sculptures delve into the profound concept of home and protection. Each piece encapsulates the essence of a shelter, exploring the idea of a sanctuary not only for humans but also for animals. Drawing from the artist's imagination, these sculptures evoke a utopian or dystopian vision of the future, akin to a fantastical bunker where creatures of all kinds seek refuge. This imaginative portrayal resonates with the interconnectedness of beings, echoing the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. Particularly striking is the connection to bees, symbolizing both the fragility and resilience of ecosystems. These sculptures serve as poignant reminders of our responsibility to coexist harmoniously with the natural world, offering a glimpse into a future where protection and care extend beyond human boundaries.

On the contrary, the wall-mounted pieces are formed from touch-sensitive wrapping paper, instilling a feeling of nurturing into the artistic process. This material, typically employed to safeguard ceramics during transportation, provides a unique tactile sensation for spectators. By incorporating both silver and white hues, the artist infuses these creations with multiple layers of significance; silver conveys value, whereas hints of rust on the white surface evoke the fleeting nature of time, thus elevating the artwork with additional conceptual depth.

The juxtaposition of clay and touch-sensitive wrapping paper in Vlassopoulou's artworks underscores the theme of fragility, sensitivity, and care. While clay represents earthiness and solidity, embodying the enduring nature of traditional shelters, the touch-sensitive wrapping paper introduces an element of delicacy and vulnerability. Through this combination, the artist highlights the dichotomy between strength and fragility inherent in the concept of home and protection. The malleability of clay speaks to the resilience required to weather life's challenges, while the sensitivity of wrapping paper emphasizes the importance of gentle touch and mindful handling in nurturing the spaces we inhabit. Together, these materials form a symbolic representation of the intricacies involved in fostering a sense of security and belonging, inviting viewers to contemplate the delicate balance between strength and vulnerability in the pursuit of creating sanctuary.

In conclusion, the artist's exploration of magical thinking through art offers a profound reflection on the human condition and our relationship with the world around us. By inviting viewers into imaginative realms where creatures seek shelter and sanctuary, Vlassopoulou prompts us to reconsider our understanding of protection, care, and interconnectedness. Through meticulous craftsmanship and thoughtful material choices, the artist crafts a narrative that transcends the physicality of the artworks, inviting contemplation on the fragility and resilience inherent in our shared existence. Ultimately, her work serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of embracing magical thinking and nurturing a sense of security and belonging, not only for ourselves but for all beings that inhabit our world.