

My practice is based in exploring the rich soup created through an interweaving of drawing, and sculpture. My work invokes a highly formal language that privileges composition, material, play and increasingly absurd forms. I use this language to create incubators that reflect on the idiosyncrasies of designed living spaces, exploring the aspirational spirit of carefully displayed accumulations of material culture. These explorations manifest in furniture-like sculptures and nested arrangements and have led to an interest in ceramics, glass and paper.



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Developing work centered on subtexts of lived spaces has led me to an interest in the shadows potentially coded within such environments. There is an eloquence in the artifacts that pepper our leisure spaces, both private and public; they have the power to communicate ambivalent narratives. These narratives of history, culture, identity, prosperity, oppression, victory unite to establish ideas of location and reality. We all have the experience of walking into a courtyard, taking a seat with a view towards some well composed fountain, the tinkling of dripping water and the murmur of conversations lulling us into a sense of contentment. This moment of pleasurable relaxation is an instance of vulnerability when critical thinking is low; it is a moment prime for the unguarded mind's acceptance of the myths that structure the design and aesthetics of such places.



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The work in this exhibition is a collection of sketches resulting from my experiments with constructing such objects and spaces of insidious "leisure". These spaces and objects aspire to attract and repulse. They are tools of joy and conspiracy. They cajole just as they whisper fringe theories that have mutated the world of facts and become an agent in our present and, ultimately, our history. The Pretenders presents an array of sets from which objects of leisure are empowered to disseminate their programmed narratives. The hope is to create experiences that fluctuate between enchantment and an awakening unease.



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Cindy Cheng

The Pretenders

Wednesday, January 29 – Sunday, March 15, 2020

Maryland Institute College of Art

Bunting Center: Pinkard Gallery

Reception: Friday, January 31, 5 – 7 p.m.

