

C. Mae Bloom: *Moments before seconds after*

CONDO

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"We put things in a drawer. A designated drawer for the miscellaneous: obscure batteries, bits of string, cocktail umbrellas, corn forks, wires without a remembered purpose, pens. Foreign coins and birthday candles. Sets of cards, hopefully complete. We put them there because the junk drawer is a repository of hope. That we will finish a task, we will have people around us to celebrate, that our lives will hold the opportunity to go to different places, that we will live long enough to change the batteries in the clock again."

— C. Mae Bloom

Moments before seconds after brings together small sculptural compositions by C. Mae Bloom that trace time, memory, and the complex ways objects carry meaning. Each assemblage—which Bloom refers to as a 'constellation'—brings together found objects and repurposed materials that blur scale and temporal registers. The artist creates worlds that are both intimate and expansive: close inspection reveals individual fragments, while taken together, the works suggest provisional universes held together by the relationships between their parts.

Individually, Bloom's practice considers how value attaches to objects: through use, through care, through the residues of previous ownership, through imagined narratives layered onto things. Bloom is drawn to items that hold traces of making and of living. The flawed and the earnestly crafted carry equal weight. In her hands, an object's origin—found or fabricated—is irrelevant; each piece is subjected to the same process of interrogation and recombination.

In one constellation, Bloom reconstructs a miniature version of Stonehenge made up of erasers paired with waxed bronze elements. Having grown up near the monument, the work explores the way ancient history can feel strangely near when filtered through childhood memory. Nearby, a drinking glass holds a gold tinsel drink stirrer, while a soft

gold tinsel bundle rests beside it like an exhausted celestial body. A propped graphic reading *BANG* punctuates the quiet material world around it. The objects occupy no consistent scale or era, assembling shifting references into a single, provisional terrain.

In another work—a reduced campsite diorama—miniature wooden logs cast from bronze sit beside an abandoned saw, while stones Bloom stumbled upon at a roadworks site are reconfigured as a tiny campfire. A makeshift tent fashioned from the wrapper of a chocolate Rolo completes the scene, with all elements arranged on spray-painted scrap card that functions as both landscape and container. The deliberate contrast between cast bronze and modest, found materials interrogates hierarchies of value, placing everyday and crafted objects on equal conceptual footing.

Together these works form a shifting cartography of time, value, and attention. They ask how objects echo across eras, how small things accrue meaning, and how the present is always composed from remnants of what has already been.

C. Mae Bloom (b. 1992) is a London-based artist, originally from Somerset and Newcastle. She studied sculpture at Wimbledon College of Art and The Royal College of Art, where she received the Rothschild Foundation Scholarship and the Gilbert Bayes Prize. Recent solo exhibitions include *a picture of space with the stars cut out, pasted over a window, in full daylight*, 36 Gallery, Newcastle, 2024.

materials list:

matchbox from large hobby collection, cast bronze, nail polish, good luck christmas cake decoration, glow in the dark rat, glow in the dark stars, star headed pin, cast bronze, nail polish, modified glass hemisphere paperweight, acrylic ink, gloss varnish, sequins, aluminium rabbit cake mould, foamboard, plaster, beaded net doily, assorted antique buttons, beads, tile spacer, pins, washers, aluminum leaf, found half protractor, tile chunk, cement balloon weight, concrete scraps, wire, glass bugle beads, semi precious mineral bead, easter rabbit chocolate foil wrappings, pebbles, buttons, holographic 'made in england' rocket box, glitter leaf decoration, pickled fennel jar, marbles purchased from the gift shop of a wetlands sanctuary, water dyed with felt pen ink, rice bran oil, ceramic owl, temporary plastic fence mesh, jar from bonne maman fruit compote with star stickers, globe pencil sharpener, multiple assorted types of synthetic yarn scrap in large jar with birthday stickers, painted wood fish bead, toothpick, paper mache globe bead, wooden snowman head, snowflakes cut from metro newspaper dated 31/10/2024, tape, synthetic rainbow brand ribbon roll, christmas cake decoration of mismatched silver shoes, miniature disco ball on string, measuring bucket, food storage tub with acrylic and watercolour residue, cut glass candle holder, cotton wool, empty plastic ribbon reel, polishing disc found outside on ground, holographic card, nail, plastic gems, wire, holographic gift boxes, holographic wrapping paper roll piece, tin foil ball, holographic pin, yogurt pot with watercolour residue, snowflake charm, smaller matchbox from hobby collection, screw cap, hot glue, silver wire, glass dots, celluloid powder pot, plastic stirrer, bluebottle bate, scrap pine, gansai tambi watercolours, clout nails, nail polish, copper coated steel wire, plastic bead from roadside bracelet break disaster i found, empty matchbox, tissue paper, millinery wire, found number 6 silver mirror box, corrugated card, spray paint, cotton wool and pompoms, drawing pin, bead and silver thimble, medicine box, easter foil, nylon string, antique silk embroidery thread, elastic, cotton buds, enamel paint on assorted drawing pin boxes, pins used in the making of this work, doll's pillow gifted by friend's child, miniature plastic peg for paper, dolls house silver cutlery with tarnish, steel button, miniature dice at different larger scale, collected demitasse silver spoons, plastic frog trinket, sun faded dolls house crockery set, button, synthetic pom-poms, sewing pin, Alfriston clergy house souvenir tin, cardboard box, scouring pads, woven bell decoration, watercolour on toothpick, sequins, glass bugle beads, metallic plastic beads, scissor game piece, deadstock halloween party bag gift notebook, horn spoon, bone ring, greetings card, 'mobil plastic' storage boxes found on wall with existing contents preserved, pebbles, granite-look beads, ceramic flower brooch, plastic nativity scene, memorial poppy from 2023 that has been through the washing machine, tissue, wine bottle cap, hobby made ceramic dish, miniature plastic tree, faded plastic duck, plastic cabin model faded from repeat use and washing, wooden tree and gift christmas decoration, snow tipped miniature pine tree with wooden base, metallic bauble bead, cast bronze with patina, plastic topped drawing pin, glass headed sewing pin, crocheted twine, disposable date forks, dried thorn branch, ribbon rose, deck of cards, decorative knit button, watch gears, wire, bead, found (stolen) drain cover, ceramic cat figurine, sponge dress pin cushion, cast bronze screws with wax, miniature plastic shoes from candy package, someone else's small pajama buttons collection in gold coloured pot with handwritten label, crocheted Japanese millinery wire, antique button, glass paperweight, sequin strip on styrofoam, silk twist button, carved leaf bead, ribbon flower, rustin's black gloss small job paint tin, handmade felt mice on base in sunday best or wedding outfits, child's collection of sylvanian families domestic accessories, found and preserved in original arrangement in shortbread tin, souvenir scarab bead on safety pin, novelty castle tower thimble, wooden owl letter opener, deadstock bonbon paper bag, found 5p winner slip from slot machines, 1930's christmas star decoration with faded face, air dry clay, gansai tambi watercolours, toilet paper inner tubes, broken watch face, ball of minimally treated sheep's wool yarn, green garden twine roll, drawing pin, bottle cap, tissue paper, two alarm clocks found at the same house clearance stall at the same time, modified mesh ribbon, collectible free gift with purchase of tea wooden train, reused medication box that I received the rubber band ball in, packing tape, selected pictorial stamps from bulk stamp collection, St Pauls church, Derbyshire mug, salt, pepper and artificial sweetener packets, wooden drinks stirrer, wooden bell decoration, nylon thread, cardmaking bell motifs, 2p coin, glass beads, polyester thread, children's book of prayer with found biro additions, cast bronze, nail polish, ceramic thimble, velvet effect coat button, 1950's tin toy anvil, 20p with interesting surface deviations, cast bronze walnut shell and cake decoration bird with patina and wax, Avon 'unspoken ultra' eau du cologne bottle, 1950's mink fur pin in original packaging, wooden reel, awl handle, child made and lost pinwheel on graph paper with colouring pencil, cast bronze cigarette butt, artificial clover and cardboard with wax, dried plant, french cereal bowl with pigtailed girl motif purchased from catholic house clearance charity warehouse, 1950's gumball spider pin, apple game piece, hobby metalwork ornaments, hourglass, gold glitter miniature pine tree, cast bronze amalgamated screws, gift bow, found heavily used tobacco tin containing curtain hooks and oven lightbulbs, rainbow elastic, brass decorative miniature basket, plastic holly sprigs, former beetroot jar that became a lentil jar, with dust residue from abandoned contents, graphic from council letter about appropriate bin etiquette, nail polish, glass bird, mild steel, weld, variegated metal leaf, gilding medium, multiplication pencil, miniature lamp post for train sets, silver candy dish with tarnish, matchbox from my kitchen, birthday candle holder, cast bronze birthday candle, disposable foil plate from chocolate and caramel mousse cake, base from cabin-shaped incense burner, caution tape, cling film, copper coated steel rod, 2p coin, furniture tack, wooden Christmas decorations, superglue, 1950's tin toy bellows, real walnut shell with textile baby christmas, decoration, antique pie crust button, spray painted corrugated cardboard, foil wrapping from rolo package, cast bronze twigs, cast bronze amalgamated twig and screw with brushed finish and wax, miniature saw cast in bronze from a buche de Noel cake decoration, painted pebbles from painted road lines being demolished, small metal rings with unknown function found with the painted road pebbles, sparkly raffia, paper pulp dyed with ash, hobby-made ceramic candle holder with rabbits, rspb postcard, box from miniature sewing kit, wool pompon liberated from vintage scarf, glitter owl candle, copper foil with chemically reacted patches from improper handling, butterfly millinery decoration made from feathers, large wooden bead, cornish pixie souvenir, saved quality street wrappings from when cellophane was still used, motif from broken jewellery, velvet base and top from miniature sewing kit, 1950's log tin toy, koh i noor eraser wall, cast bronze with patina walnut shell, twig, twine, smaller twigs, 1950's tin toy of straw holder, glass decorative crystal wheat, decorative twig kitchen storage, bottle caps and wine lids eroded from weather exposure and being repeatedly run over, bronze twigs with brushed finish and wax, plastic ribbon, spray painted cardboard, spray painted cotton ball, synthetic textile pom pom, toothpick, glass beads, plasticised natural edged wood no trumps game dial, office toy woodpecker, cast bronze walnuts and shells with patination and wax, walnut eraser, antique souvenir matchbox with nail polish modifications, branded glass left outside of a casino, drink stirrer, cocktail firework, dismantled tinsel angel halo, 1980's greeting card addressed to a dear aunt, koh-i-noor pebble erasers, cast bronze pencils with brushed finish, fishing hook weight, dead stock cardboard target, pom poms, felt tip pen, drawing pins, styrofoam balls, novelty moon-shaped eraser, balls of string, string and wool crochet, holographic tape, sequins, glass seed and bugle beads, glass headed pins, rubber band ball (purchased from eBay for £25.50 and p&p, collected and produced by a bored person at their 2 year tenure working in an office, roll of admission tickets, wooden beads, mini drum model, paint clump trapped within brass ring, costume jewelry beetle, crocheted doilies, lace placemat, antique embroidery thread.