

HESSE FLATOW

Childress, Michael and Gray, Julia. "The Small Exceeds." *Office*. Online. August 19, 2017.

office

The Small Exceeds



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Mysterious motifs can be traced throughout *The Small Exceeds* at *New Release Gallery*, a compelling extended observation and contemplation created by curator and artist Michael Childress. Childress' immersive installation neglects spectacle in the interest of a subdued experience thereby providing a refreshing break from the typical in-and-out exhibit. The title is drawn from Hexagram 62 of the I Ching, which commends a "preponderance of the small" and a consideration for detail in the pursuit of mindfulness. Childress along with eight other artists display work that encourage shared meditation and relaxation.

Photos by [Julia Gray](#)

Covering the only window in the gallery, Childress' handmade shoji screen sets up an enveloping atmosphere. The rich yet comfortable environment facilitates an intimate interaction with the work and fellow gallery-goers. Childress has clear intentions throughout the space, pointing out the lines from Hexagram 62 traced throughout the exhibit: on the benches, in the shoji screen's framing, and even with the slats on the walls.

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Sunyata by Siebren Versteeg

"Often times [the table] will take an image and do a google image search and present similar images, so there is this connection to the outside world. When working on creating the space, the [shoji] screens were meant to shut out the outside world. The incense were so we wouldn't smell waffles from Eggloo next door. I wanted to have people join together [around the table] to focus on the present moment. [Sunyata] uses the present moment, whatever is on top of it, as its source imagery. The central space having this kind of vortex is where the idea of a feedback loop table came from. An idea of voidness is a big part of the show."

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Part of Platform 1 by Matthew J. Stone

"A 'preponderance of the small' clicked with everything. That's what brought in these smaller objects, but then it also having this greater resonance with what's going on in the world. Thinking about rebellion versus meditation is particularly challenging in a time when resistance is so important."



Shards 9 by Katy Fischer

"The preponderance of the small is like the greatness of small things in large numbers, and I think that's really powerful"

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Shelf (Untitled Shrine) by Matt Gilva

"There is this shrine element [to this piece]. It has beeswax on it and those keys are from an accordion. Beeswax related more to the small exceeds idea. And then there's a vertebrae and a piece of metal. [The shelf sits under] real calla lilies cast onto a found windowsill. I like this idea of worshipping a window."