

Thinning the Veil

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Sculpture and Expanded Media

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Committee:

Sarah Paul (Chair)

Alyssa Perry

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Artist Statement

Thinning the Veil is a microcosm of my psychological landscape. The aesthetics of romantic horror are apparent in the work and have been of great interest to me since childhood. The dolls in this exhibition teeter between gothic and cosmic horror. They are creations of an artist playing god, bringing into the physical realm unsettling, unknowable creatures. Like the ghostly enemy in a gothic novel, or Lovecraft's Cthulhu, I cannot pinpoint the origin of these figures. They are not from an established magical world, they exist between our tangible reality and the murky depths of the psyche. The figures use a softened grotesqueness to draw a viewer in. They are unsettling at first glance, but the materials and detail are meant to intrigue a viewer, despite any reservations when approaching.

Each doll has a base of aluminum wire to create a pliable thin frame that can bend in any direction. The heads of these dolls are slip cast with porcelain and altered from their original shape before firing. The forms start from similar materials, but through the process of making, the essence of the piece becomes clearer, and it evolves into an often unexpected version of its starting point. The garments and skins of the dolls are entirely hand sewn. This labor is a parallel to the idea of building a mythos from the ground up. Each doll contains in itself information and stories, some of which even I have yet to discover.

The individual dolls stem from a single idea or fixation that I then research and bring into a physical form. The suspended mutated forms signal the non-reality of the space. By bringing these dolls into the world, I am hoping to have thinned the veil between fantasy and reality.





Ellen, 2019

12"x 2"x 2"

Acrylic paint, Acrylic yarn, Aluminum wire, Fabric, Pastel, Pencil, Polymer clay, Porcelain



Ellen, 2021 (Detail)



On Hunger, 2020

12"x 4"x 4"

Acrylic paint, Aluminum wire, Bird feathers and feet, Fabric, Pastel, Pencil, Porcelain



On Hunger, 2020 (detail)

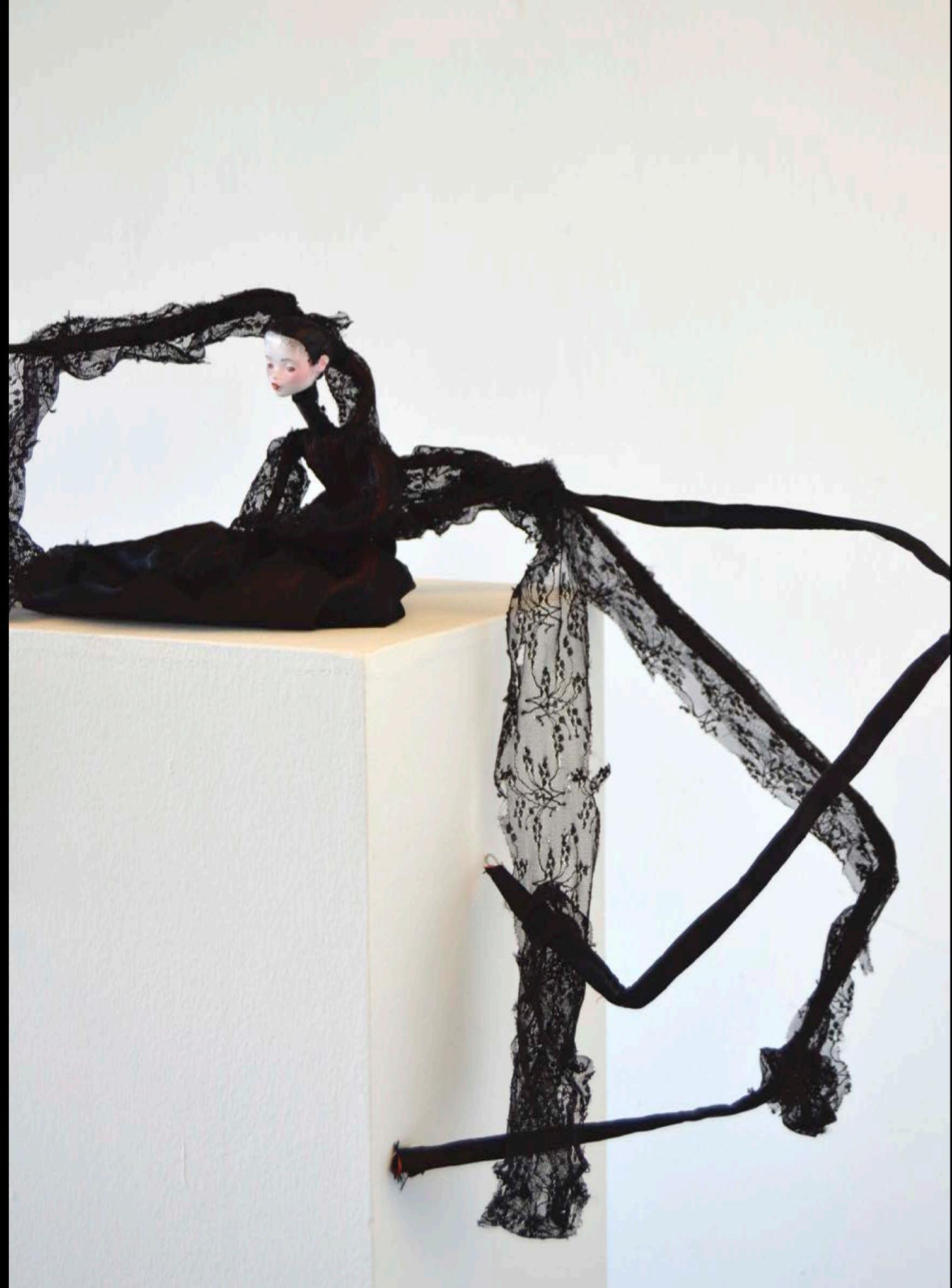


On Hunger, 2020 (detail)



Crawler, 2020 - 14"x 30"x 5" - Acrylic paint, Aluminum wire, Fabric, Lace, Pastel, Pencil, Porcelain





Crawler, 2020 (detail)



Soiled, 2020 - 5"x 9"x 3" - Aluminum wire, Fabric, Felt, Pastel, Pencil, - Porcelain, Sewing thread, Soil, Wool



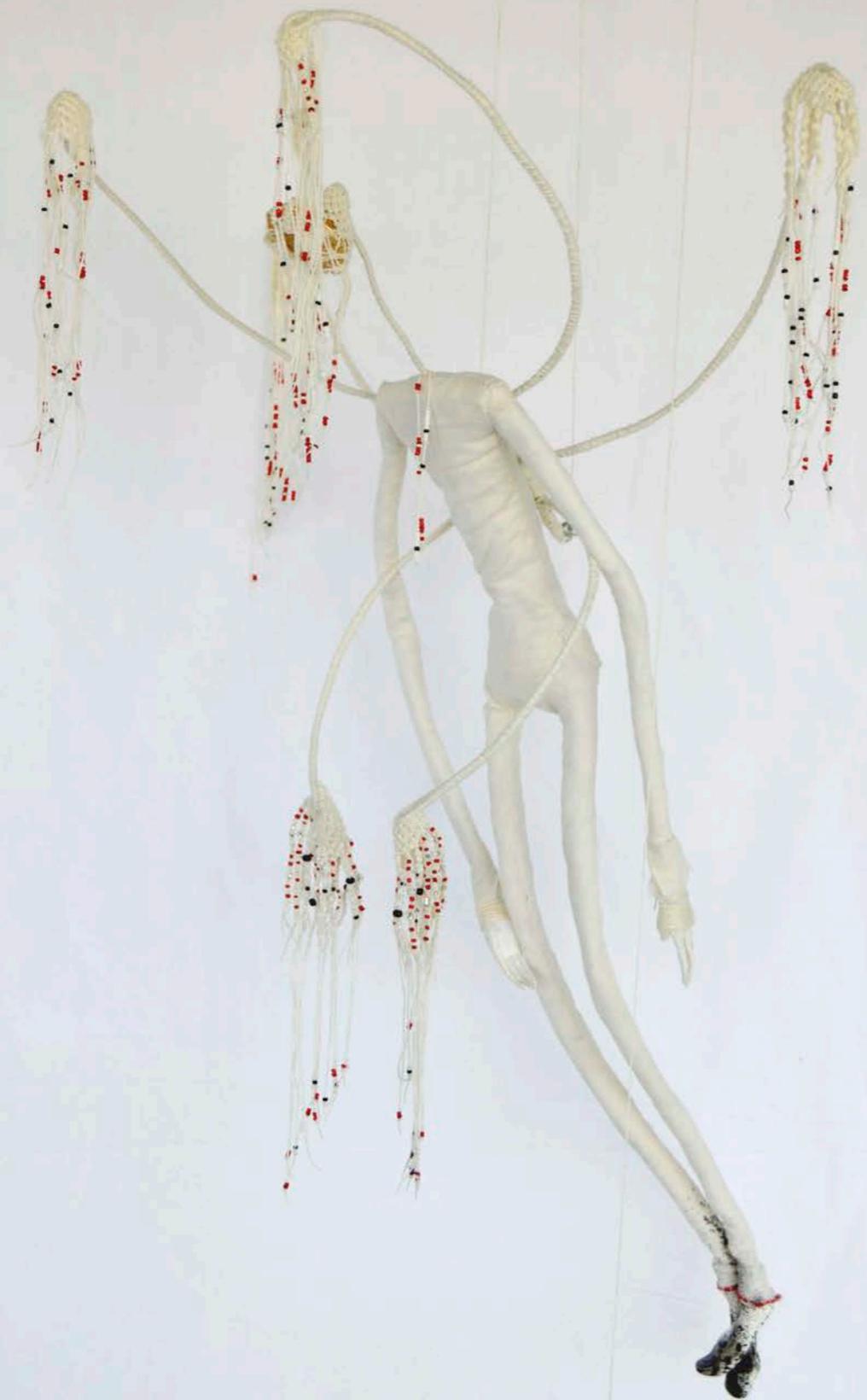
Soiled, 2020 (detail)



112 LBS, 2020
Aluminum wire, Artist's hair, Fabric, Lace,
Porcelain







Seraph, 2021
24 x 12 x 5 inches
Beads, Fabric, Gold Foil, Ink, Polymer Clay,
Porcelain, Steel Wire, String



Seraph, 2020 (detail)





Eater, 2021
10 x 20 x 7 inches
Beads, Fabric,
Lace, Polymer
Clay, Porcelain,
Steel Wire, String



Eater, 2021 (detail)



Thinning the Veil
Anna Baskins
Sculpture, and Layers of Textiles

