

AMANDA BESL
SWEET DREAMS



BRADBURY ART MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 15, 2023

“In my oil paintings, a candy-colored palette lingers, casting an acidic neon pal over a constructed still life world. Seemingly languid landscapes of wigs and hairpieces threaten to topple and ensnare. Swans and ballerinas plunge into a constructed hinterland haunted by electric cords and distant interiors that betray a fabrication. Cyanotypes of wildflowers and weeds reference the movement of stars to guide these women on their journey.

Like a ‘choose your own adventure’ story, this body of work suggests alternate paths for a narrative plot line. Characters assume fairytale archetypes, but the archetype is a guise. The archetype is slippery. Transformations can’t always be reversed and power struggles can appear where they are not expected. Take a swan boat to the end of the Danube. Do not forget to pay for your ride or you’ll pay for it later. Listen to what strangers have to say but make your own choices. You can trust the birds. Willingly suspend your disbelief, but do not forget who you are. Step off the path.”

- Amanda Besl

Amanda Besl uses natural history as a platform to explore social issues and finds inspiration in the plants she obsessively tends, which also provide props for her current cyanotype-inspired work. Besl is based in Buffalo, NY.

front: *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, 2014, oil on wood panel, 36 x 55 inches

Courtesy of Resource:Art Gallery



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