



Questions to lead to your Artist's Statement:

What concept are you exploring in this piece?

This piece uses the imagery of a birdcage with unusual inhabitants. By substituting animated “teeth” on a swing instead of the expected “birds” questions are posed about the nature of boundaries for our dreams.

Why does it make sense for YOU to do this piece?

My dreaming history includes repetitive images and feelings of teeth falling out and my constantly trying to put them back. By caging the teeth in a form most reserved for birds of song I am imagining holding on to my dreams, whatever they are.

How does your choice of subject matter and formal qualities support your concept?

The juxtaposition of a meat hook, both terrifying and secure, to a fragile cage sets a scene that is both unstable and curious. By hand carving the teeth from turnips, the raw feeling of the root being ripped from the mouth is exaggerated, yet the lighting, the fluffy clouds and symmetrical composition evoke childlike illustrations. How do these seemingly incompatible implications affect the viewer?

How does your work relate to the wider art world?

This piece continues a tradition of surrealism/ magic realism where the odd is often disturbing, yet compelling. It seeks to engage the viewer on a subconscious level that is compatible with the nature of dreams.