

5-50



## Insight

**Exhibition Reception:**

**February 14, 5 - 8 pm**

Exhibition:

February 14 – March 29, 2026

**5-50 Gallery** presents *Insight*, a solo exhibition by **Emily Blair Quinn**. The exhibition comprises large-scale paintings on canvas, resin sculptures, a dollhouse installation and photographic prints. Quinn's multidisciplinary practice examines how identity can take shape through a process of reflection and recursion.

Central to Quinn's work are found porcelain figurines of women from the turn of the twentieth century. She arranges these objects in theatrically lit scenes inside dollhouses, at times transforming them through paint, wax, or resin before photographing them. These photographs become the basis for her paintings, yielding a body of work comprising resin casts, photographs, and paintings. To create her sculptures, she places the figurine inside a resin mold, producing translucent shells that encase opaque originals. These 'dolls' are performative objects which reproduce the historical conditions of objectification. Long associated with the concept of the uncanny, dolls occupy a space of near-human resemblance while remaining conspicuously devoid of consciousness. Their lifelike appearance, emotional stasis, and suspended animation generate a disquieting tension between subject and object, animate and inanimate.

Dolls and figurines have long been objects to look at, but Quinn shifts this dynamic by creating a closed loop of looking between the object and its observer. Her work brings the interior psychological landscape of these inanimate objects into the open. In *Alter Ego*, for example, two identical porcelain figurines face one another in a mirrored configuration. This double portrait invokes the uncanny not solely through resemblance, but from their mutual gaze. The figures observe one another, collapsing the distinction between viewer and viewed.

Miniatures, like those found in dollhouses, also offer the viewer a sense of control and power. While women of the household historically lacked authority over their domestic lives, the miniature world allowed for a kind of omnipotence. Quinn's small resin sculptures remind us both of what has been gained and how far we still have to go. Representations of women, like the figurines Quinn repurposes, have long occupied a position somewhere between subject and object. There has been little space for woman as viewer, and ample space for woman as image. *Insight* confronts this asymmetry directly. By mobilizing the uncanny, domestic artifacts, and mirrored acts of looking, Quinn illustrates a feminist aesthetic in which female subjectivity is neither passive nor fixed, but recursive, reflective, and self-determining.

**Emily Blair Quinn (b. 1990 in Decatur, AL)** received her BFA in 2013 from Auburn University in Alabama and her MFA in 2016 from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Quinn has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at MARQUEE PROJECTS in Bellport, NY (2025), the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska City (2025), NE, the 21c Museum Hotel in Kansas City, MO (2024). Her work has been included in recent group exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum in Louisville, KY, Charlotte Street Foundation in Kansas City, MO, the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures in Kansas City, the Kleinert/James Center for the Arts in Woodstock, NY, Project for Empty Space in Newark, NJ, Pen + Brush in New York City, High Noon Gallery in New York City, and elsewhere. She is an artist in residence at Studios Inc in Kansas City, MO for the next three years and has previously attended residencies at Willapa Bay AiR in Oysterville, WA, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska City, NE, Walkaway House in North Adams, MA, ChaNorth in Pine Plains, NY, Joshua Tree Highlands in Joshua Tree, CA, and the Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been published in New American Paintings, Create! Magazine, Studio Visit Magazine, and VoyageKC Magazine. Quinn lives in Prairie Village, KS and works in Kansas City, MO.