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# lulo

## NIKI ULEHLA | TOYS

Join us this Friday, November 24th 4-6pm to view a collection of new work by Niki Ulehla - artist, jewelry designer, puppet maker and performer.

Niki will be present at Lulo to talk about the objects and jewelry she has created, inspired by the idea of children's toys and beautifully reinterpreted from her experimental perspective of visual storytelling.



As a mother to her young daughter Delia, the concept of toys, is explored as a tool to spark the imagination for children and adults alike.

Niki describes the central aspects of her work as questions;

"So you can wonder- who is this?

Or - how do these fit together?

Or - how is it put together?

Or - what does this remind me of?

Or is a toy a substitute for a real thing?

A miniature replica of something?



*Niki first learned to make marionettes in the Czech Republic when she was 20. Many of the techniques and materials she uses in making jewelry come from techniques or discoveries in the puppet-making process.*

"I play with materials to build shapes and or characters and things that remind me of something else. And the casual nature of toying with something is in my work and critical. Because if i really stopped and considered it, why on earth would i do what i do? Why would i put horse hair into a head to make a kind of skirt? Because I figured out how toothbrush bristles go into the head of the toothbrush. So clearly the next logical step is...but why does the world need this?"

I don't know. I hope it does. But i don't know. "



*Niki's work in jewelry is rooted in the discovery of found objects, industrial and natural materials. Combined they make an unexpected and beautiful expression.*



*Niki studied jewelry making at Revere Academy in San Francisco and also holds a BA from Stanford University in painting and drawing. All her work is hand made from her studio in San Francisco.*