

Jennifer Vanderpool

2 Installations: Greetings from Sunny Bunny & Mama's Little Helper

Idyllwild Arts Academy, Idyllwild, California

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The madcap domesticity of Jennifer Vanderpool's wall/floor (wallflower?) piece *Mama's Little Helper* induces a giddy feeling in the viewer, a pleasant, careering vertigo that asserts the terms of engagement in a vocabulary of wild color and form. This expansive installed work continues Vanderpool's concern with whimsical constructs and spaces that allow the viewer to reconsider edible culture and the assumptions we make about oral culture.

Ribbons of multicolored packaging tape connect wall to floor, ending in curly, coiled piles, set off by a sweetly fantastic landscape of stacked krumcakes (a sort of ironed-out Danish cookie). These confectioned towers are literally held together with garishly colored cake frosting, which could be read as a cloying allusion to the sugary dispositions of cookie-baking über-women everywhere – as depicted, of course, by cheerful culture-building media only too happy to perpetuate their thrall over every hausfrau in the land.

Punctuating this veritable paean to pastry are video and audio elements, the former displayed on a monitor positioned so as to compel viewers to circumnavigate the wall to find the video. Consisting of nonobjective patterns, bright color and shapes, the video becomes eye candy of the finest sort, a glassed-in counterpoint to the krumcake archipelago nearby. The audio, in bracingly onomatopoeiac fashion, is of the remnant eggshells of the krumcake preparation being slowly crushed, topped with a recording of sucking on one's lower lip, an audibly metaphorical twitch from our aching suspension above a sweet surrender to palate and eye.

-Kerry Kugelman

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