

April Marten The Function of [an] Imaginary

Aug 28 – Sept 29, 2023

University of North Carolina
Rowe Galleries
Charlotte, NC



Curator's Statement

As a curator, I am drawn to the use of iconography in contemporary art as a device to subtly communicate with viewers. It provides conceptual depth yet allows for a personal experience and individual interpretation of the art. Marten's work focuses heavily on symbolism and what it means for a physical space or object to be a placeholder for an emotion, behavior, or belief. Though her work points out difficult truths in our social systems, Marten has found her own playful language to pull us into the conversation.

Her use of pastel colors and domestic items in *Function of [an] Imaginary* draws you in with its softness, femininity, and connection to childhood memories. Unexpected alterations such as unusual placement, change in color, or added texture drastically change what these items represent. In *The Function of [an] Imaginary*, Marten confronts the delicate overlap between seeking contentment and consumerism, and how ideologies and social systems play into that dynamic.

My fascination with the *Frances Wasn't a Saint* series and *Function of [an] Imaginary* comes from Marten's use of modern-day materials as representation of the sublime or lack thereof. I would find myself daydreaming about it months later, still asking myself questions and still thinking about how I saw myself in the work. Marten's work has always felt otherworldly yet also accessible. Now, *Function of [an] Imaginary* is available to all.

– Alice Cookson

Works Listed

The origin of possibility & order in 66 parts, as it pertains the evolution of a life

Book wall sculpture

2023

14 x 6 x 4.5 in

Inquire for pricing

It's a Sign (Love You.) Altar

Neon, found objects

2021

40 x 24 x 4.5 in

Inquire for pricing

Botanica Shop

Mixed media wall sculpture

2020 - 2023

4' x 4' x 2 in

Inquire for pricing

Cathedra

Multimedia sculpture

2020

9 x 4 x 4'

NFS

Soul Houses

37 ceramic vessels

variable sizes

2017 - 2023

Inquire for pricing

Milking Altar

Multimedia sculptural vignette with *easy bake oven* wall

Video, 00:03:04 looping

2020

8 x 9 ½ x 4'

NFS

Healing the Tree that Hurts

Floor sculpture

2 x 3'

2020

variable

NFS

InBetween, 2020
Wall Poetry