

TIBOR DE NAGY

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Shari Mendelson *Animals, Idols and Us*

October 29 to December 5, 2020



Shari Mendelson *Stag with Cup*, 2019
repurposed plastic, hot glue, resin, acrylic polymer and mica 15 1/2 x 4 x 10 inches

Tibor de Nagy is pleased to present Shari Mendelson - *Animals, Idols and Us*. The exhibition, originally scheduled for March, will be the artist's first at the gallery

Animals, Idols and Us will be comprised of 25 sculptures all made in the last two years. Mendelson creates these works out of ordinary plastic beverage bottles which she collects in and around her Brooklyn studio. Using the unique aspects of each brand's color, shape and patterning, she *recycles* this all-too-common product into her sculptural objects. This body of work draws on ancient history, and her many visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. With her process and subject matter, the artist bridges civilizations and creates a composite of the present and the remote past. These works

come out of her close observations of ancient glass, terra cotta vessels, antique human and animal forms from Roman, Cypriot, Egyptian, Chinese and Islamic traditions. She is especially interested in how everyday life is presented, how the utilitarian and the spiritual aspects interact - how we glimpse everyday life from burial objects placed in tombs and how a deity, animal and vessel can coexist in the same object.



Shari Mendelson *Greetings and Offerings*, 2020
repurposed plastic, hot glue, resin, acrylic polymer and mica 18 1/2 x 7 x 13 1/2 inches

Mendelson has long been an artist focused on materials. In her decades as a practicing artist, she has worked with industrial plastic, metal and jewelry. In this current body of work hot glue, acrylic polymers, resin and mica powders are used to bind the found plastic and alter the surface texture and color. The contemporary nature of her medium is never entirely hidden and an expiration date or other markers of modern life can make an appearance. The artist describes her approach as follows: *I make the pieces starting with a drawing or a photograph of an ancient work but as I'm making them, things change and they go off in a direction of their own. I look to the originals for guidance but mainly I'm trying to figure out how to build an interesting form and surface using found convex and concave plastic bits.*



Shari Mendelson *Seated Sphinx*, 2019
repurposed plastic, hot glue, resin, acrylic polymer and mica 13 x 6 x 7 inches

Shari Mendelson (b. 1961) is based in Brooklyn and Upstate New York. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally including the recent solo exhibition *Glasslike* at Urban Glass in Brooklyn, curated by Elizabeth Essner, and *Shari Mendelson: Amphorae and Apparitions* at the Hunterdon Art Museum. She is currently in the group exhibition *Re-materialize* at the Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, curated by Heather Gibson Moqtaderi. The artist has received four New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships, and is a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship recipient. Mendelson received her MFA from SUNY New Paltz in 1986 and is a lecturer at Parsons School of Design in Manhattan.

More information and images contact us at info@tibordenagy.com

Drop in welcome or visit the website for an appointment. Please wear a mask.

Upcoming exhibitions:

Rudy Burckhardt – *New York Hello, photos from the 1970s and 1980s*
December 10, 2020 - January 23, 2021