

Container
Jody Joyner





Container

Recent work by
Jody Joyner

September 12 – October 22, 2023
List Gallery, Swarthmore College

The List Gallery is pleased to present *Container*, a solo exhibition of recent works by Jody Joyner. Through her interdisciplinary practice, which includes sculpture, video, installation, and mixed-media wall works, Joyner explores the materiality, purpose, and shifting meanings of everyday things. The artist is honored as the Donald J. Gordon Artist for the 2023–2024 academic year.

In *Container*, Joyner uses consumer product packaging as her primary source of materials, forms, and subject matter. She often begins her inquiries by shredding discarded single-use objects, such as cardboard boxes, to create malleable pulp. She then presses the pulp into plastic objects, such as egg cartons, trash cans, and produce baskets, which become found molds. The front room of the gallery features two composite installations consisting of stacked garbage containers made from a single mold. The installations recall the type of organization found in supermarkets, offices, or other quotidian spaces. Despite her playful interest in mimesis, Joyner's sculptures are not replicas. She represents durable, mass-produced materials with imperfect, hand-processed matter. Her pulp trash cans are porous and fragile trash. Her jugs are not symmetrical or functional, but warped and wryly studded with remnants of an Eggland's Best® label.

The back room of the gallery features an immersive installation that overlays sculptural forms with video projection and sound. Joyner plays with some of the conventions of still life painting by creating a tabletop comprised of replicated sculptural packaging. She projects close-up footage of fruits and other foods onto the sculptural set-up, creating a back-and-forth between containers and their contents. Joyner's fascination with layering and scale continues in her new series of small-scale wall-mounted works created by printing organic imagery onto surfaces made from seeds.

Throughout *Container*, Joyner's material and formal interventions hybridize the synthetic and organic, the industrial and hand-made, the pristine and imperfect. Offering a playful yet somber look at the increasing detritus of the Anthropocene, the artist reminds viewers of how we are each continuously cast and recast as consumers.





Above: *Rubbermaid* [detail], 2023, found cardboard, PVA, indigo dye, and mini-dumpster hardware
Opposite: *Rubbermaid*, 2023, found cardboard, PVA, indigo dye, and mini-dumpster hardware



Above and opposite: *Packaged Lemons*, 2023 die-cut extruded polystyrene packaging inserts
found cardboard, PVA, ultracal, dye, molded pulp packaging, cement-all





Packaged Lemons [detail], 2023 die-cut extruded polystyrene packaging inserts, found cardboard, PVA, ultracal, dye, molded pulp packaging, cement-all





Opposite: *Fruit of Legendary Perfection*, 2023, disassembled cardboard packaging crate, chia seeds, PVA, UV printing



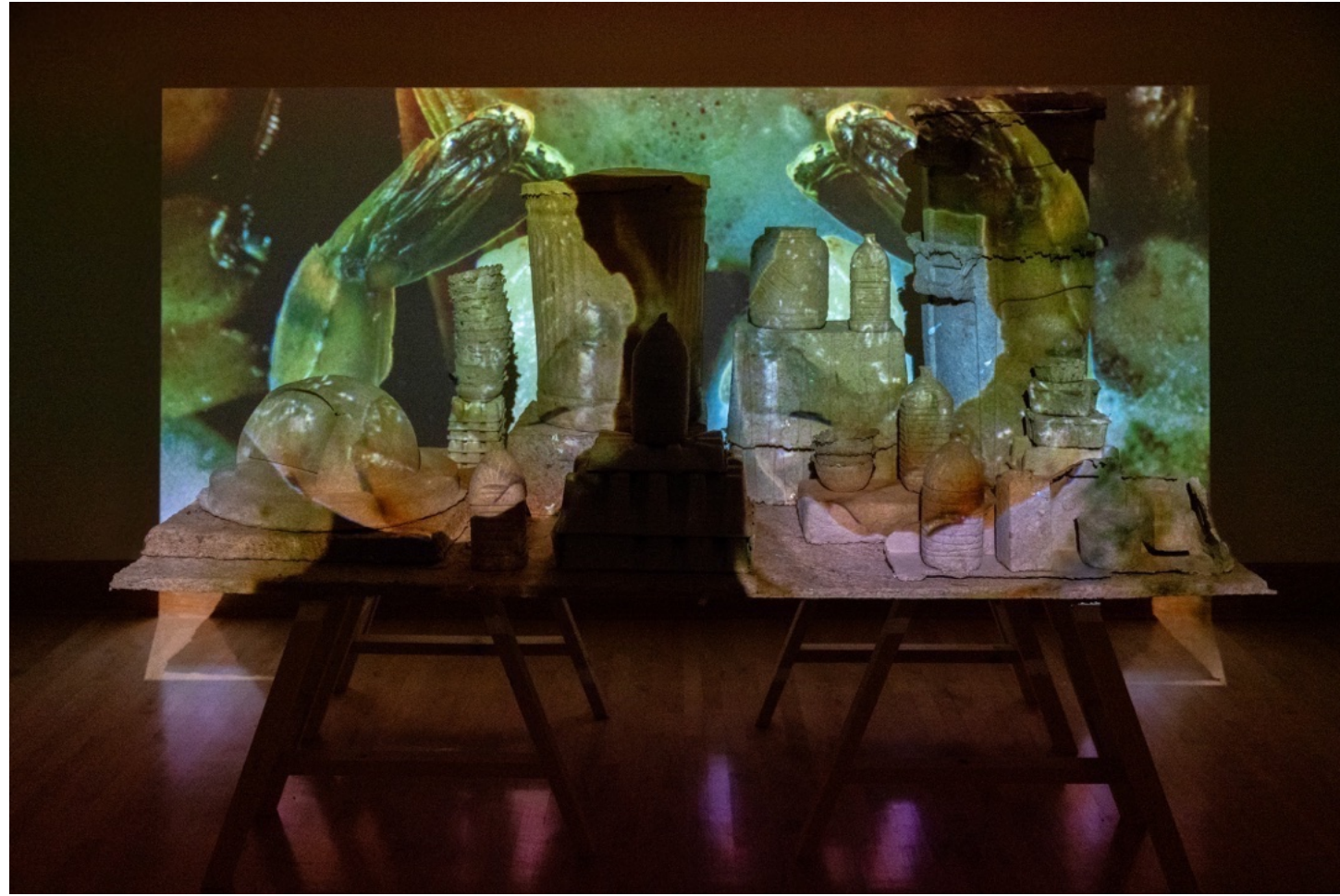


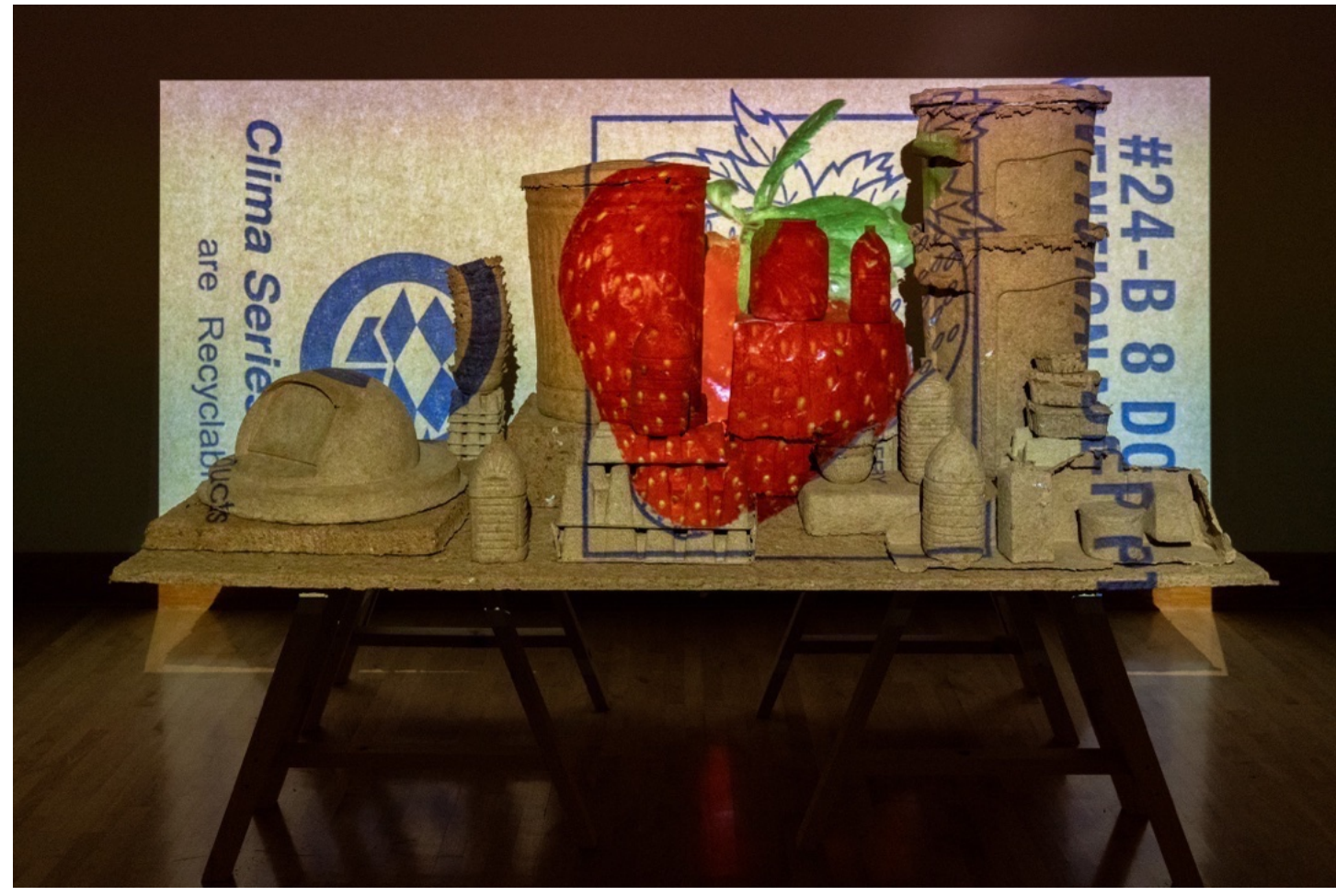
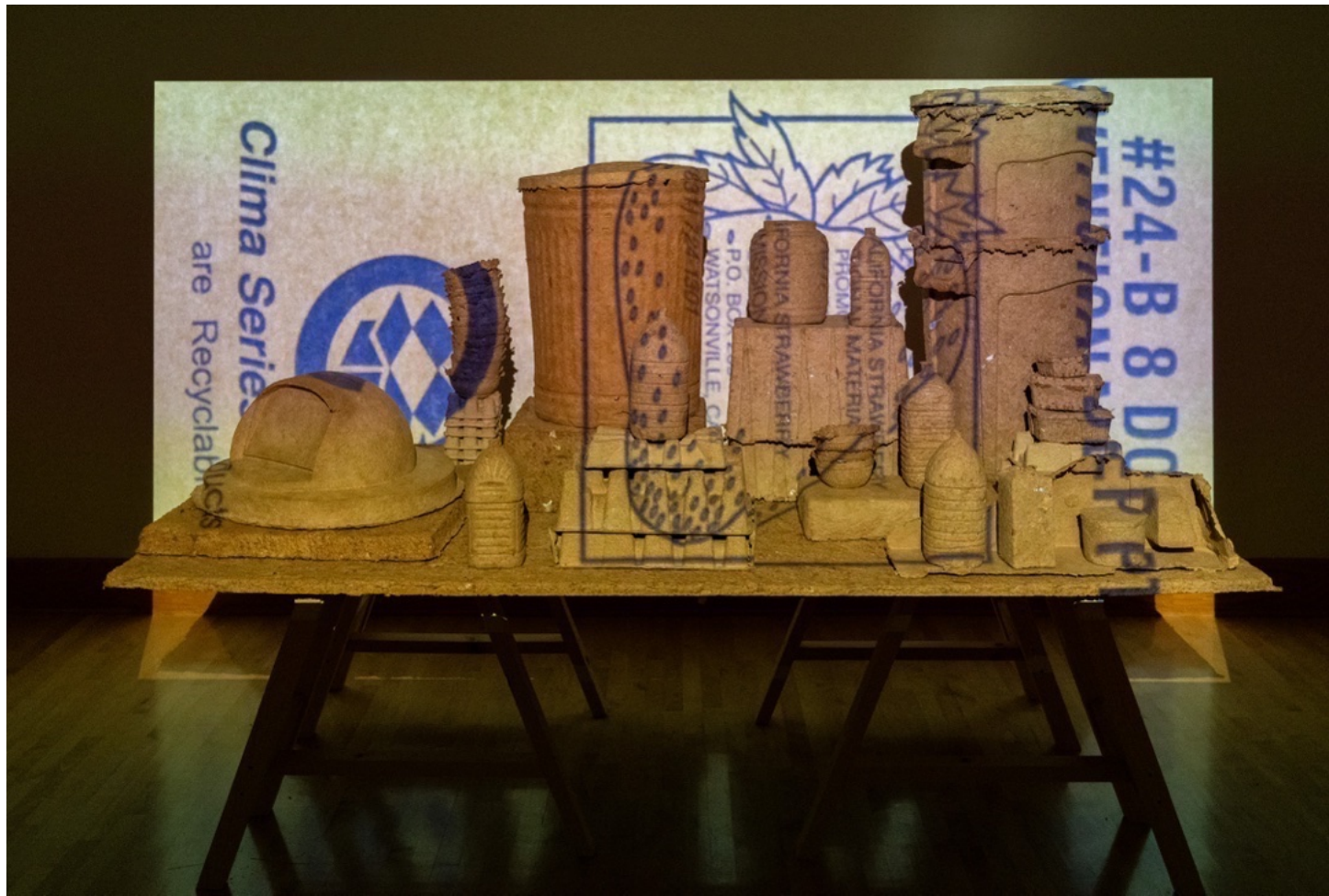
Opposite: *i <3 hydros*, 2023, disassembled cardboard packaging crate, poppy seeds, PVA, UV printing

All images on pages 21–33:
Installation view: *Still Life with Fruit on a Ledge* (after Caravaggio), 2023
Cardboard, wood, 4k video projection.















Jody Joyner is an interdisciplinary artist and educator living and working in Philadelphia, PA. She received an MFA from Yale University in 2016 and a BA from Colorado College in 2010. Joyner has exhibited work throughout the country in venues such as Franconia Sculpture Park (Minneapolis, MN), Vox Populi (Philadelphia, PA), and Modest Common (Los Angeles, CA). She is the recipient of multiple grants, awards, and residencies, including SOMA Summer in Mexico City, Mountain School in Los Angeles, the AI Held Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, and the Josef Albers Traveling Fellowship. Joyner is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Swarthmore College.

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All installation images are from the exhibition:
Container: Recent Work by Jody Joyner
Curators: Andrea Packard and Tess Wei

All photographs: Joe Painter

Cover image: Installation view: *Still Life with Fruit on a Ledge (after Caravaggio)*, 2023
Cardboard, wood, 4k video projection. Dimensions vary.

Inside front and back cover images: *Rubbermaid* [detail], 2023
found cardboard, PVA, indigo dye, and mini-dumpster hardware

Back cover: *BRUTE Stacks* [detail], 2023, found cardboard, PVA,
indigo and fiber reactive dye, molded pulp packaging, cement-all

