



COUNTING
BACKWARDS
FRONTEN

SOSO-CAPALDI
OLLIEGOSS

AUTOMAT

March 7-28, 2026 Opening: Thurs. March 12 6-9pm

Counting Backwards From Ten

Catalogue design by Whitson Ramsey and
Lexi Arrietta

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Philadelphia, PA
ACo21

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AUTOMAT Collective is a curatorial collective based in Philadelphia championing emerging artists through exhibitions, programming, and publications. We are created by and for artists: It is our mission to support the developing trajectories of emerging artists and to provide a space where artists and curators can undertake experimental projects that advance the dialogue of our visual culture. In addition to our regular programming, we are proud to partner with other collectives and community organizations for collaborative engagement.

AUTOMAT is pleased to present *Counting Backwards From Ten*, a two-person exhibition featuring new work by Soso Capaldi and Ollie Goss. In *Counting Backwards From Ten*, the artists interrogate their relationships to organized religion and property ownership, using puppeteering, pattern-making and video installation to imagine new, more equitable futures.

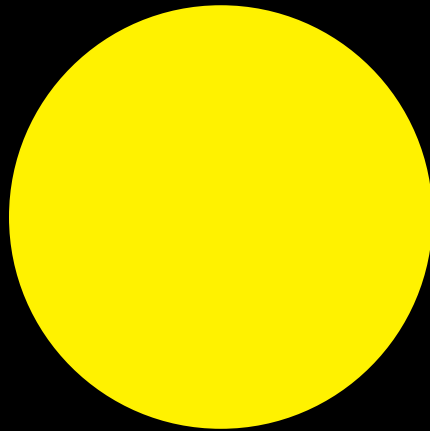
Ollie Goss draws from the rich history of hand puppet theatre to create work that examines character tropes, access to public space, and policing. In the center of the gallery, a group of kinetic animal puppets are engaged in a juggling performance, with two animatronic cops peeking in and out of their surveillance towers, keeping an eye on the show. Their video installation is a play on a popular cartoon trope of a rabbit season, with the interchanging hands of the hunter and the hunted calling the power dynamics into question.

Soso Capaldi's connect-the-dot drawings are a nod to a popular childhood craft, and an attempt to trace their personal history through pattern-making and memory. Their drawings depict the architectural details of various ornate gates in their neighborhood, the stained-glass windows in their grandmother's former home, select renditions of Ollie's puppetry, a vase hand-made by their parents, and a Congolese Nkisi spiritual object, among others. Spirituality shows up in Soso's work as they parse through being a queer person navigating familial religious traumas. They are devoted to the act of repetition as a vehicle for processing their OCD diagnosis and surrounding themselves with protective creatures.

With their playful world-building, weaving together memory and craft, Goss and Capaldi probe their relationships to traditional power dynamics and institutions, as Goss's puppets scheme in plain sight and Capaldi surrenders to the process of creation.



Counting Backward



ds From Ten



Soso Capaldi
Ollie Goss

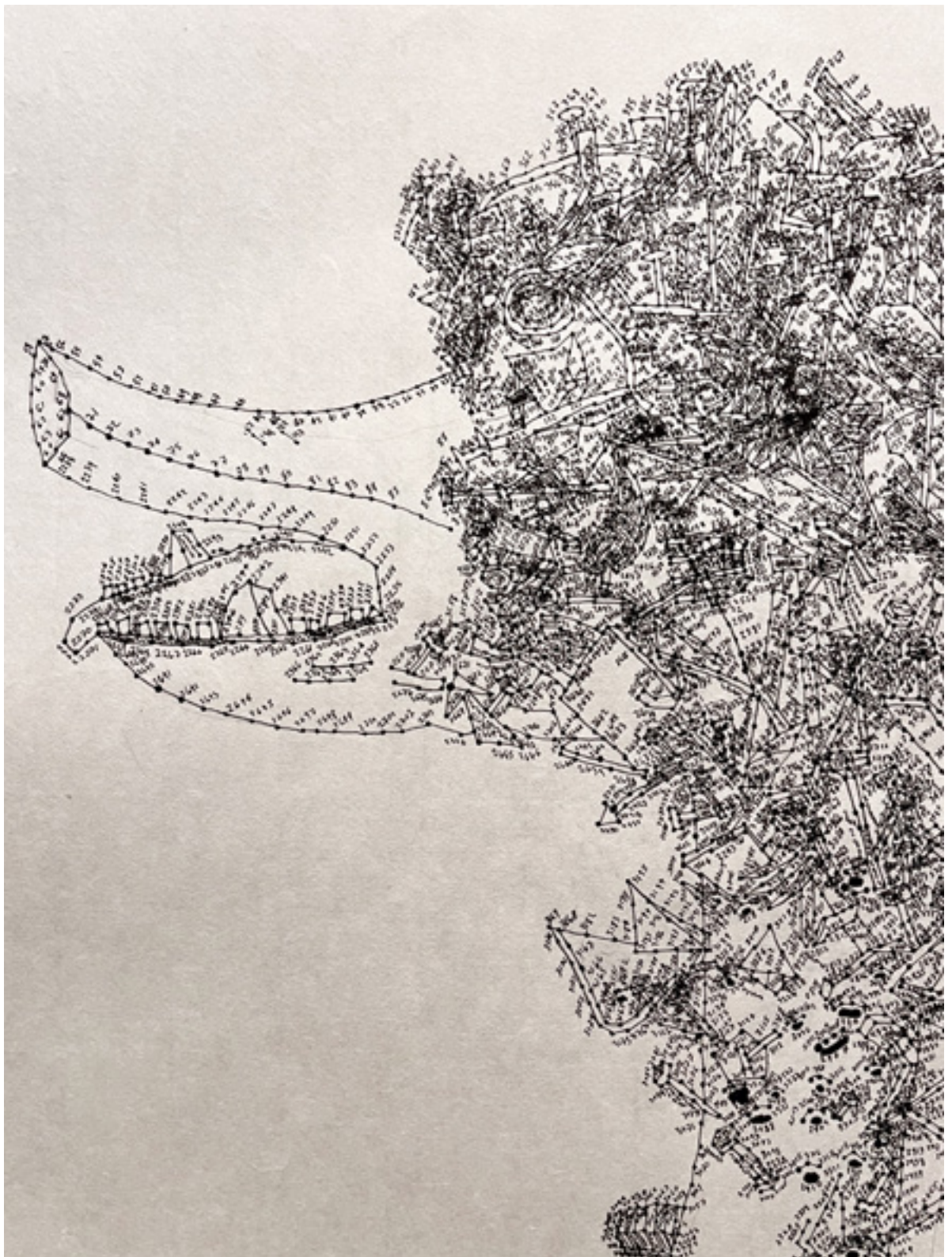
March 7 - 28, 2026

Curated by Dana Suleymanova





Soso Capadli earned their MFA in ceramics from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture and a BFA in Drawing and Painting from Penn State University. Lately, Soso is making drawings one dot at a time.



Soso Capaldi

Connect the dots yourself

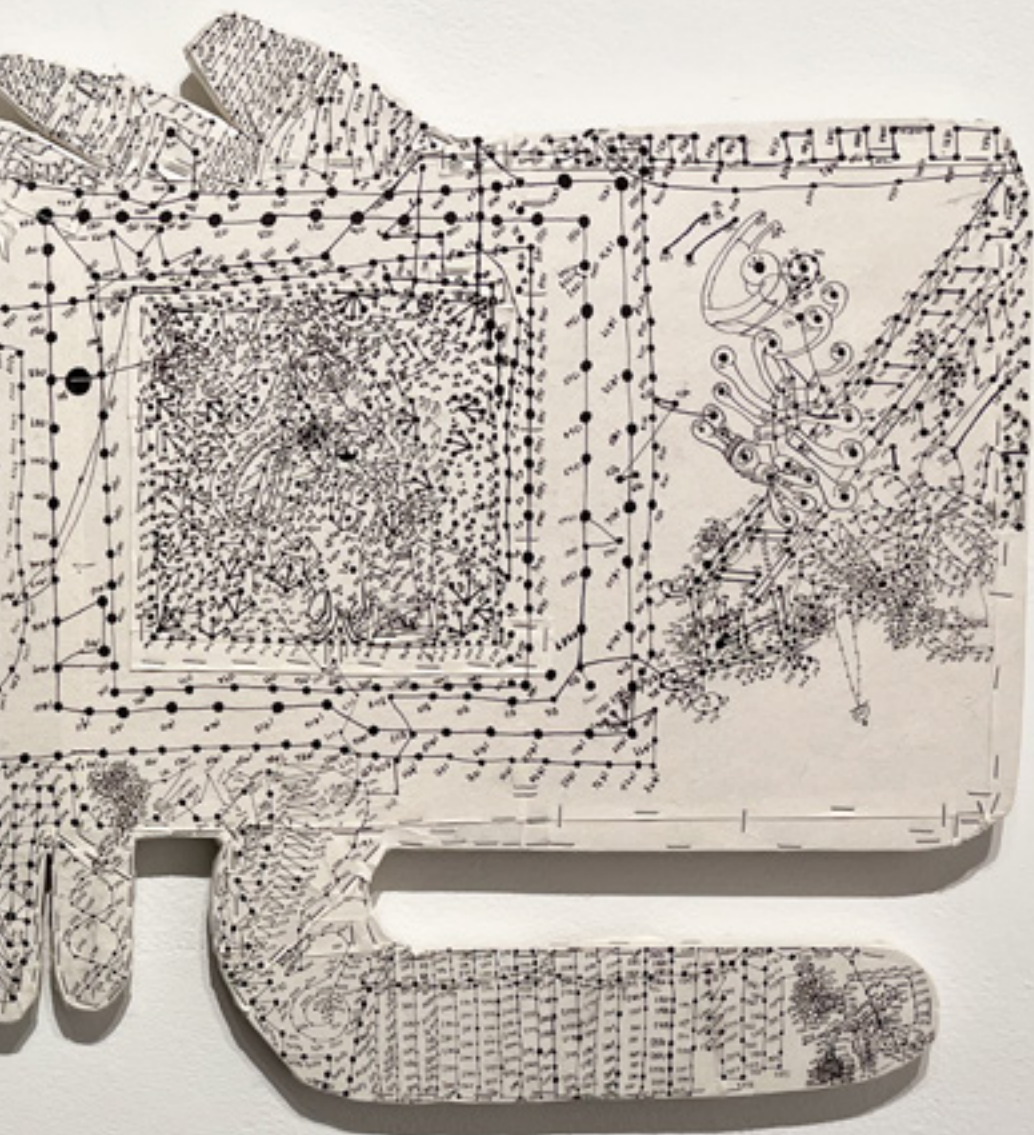
2025

Ink, Mulberry paper

12 1/2 x 9 1/2 in.







Previous spread:

Soso Capaldi

Several Elephants

2025

Mulberry paper, wood, ink, staples

21 x 42 1/2 in.

Detail right.



Soso Capaldi

Untitled

2025

Ink, wood, paper

12 1/2 x 9 1/2 in.







Previous spread:

Soso Capaldi

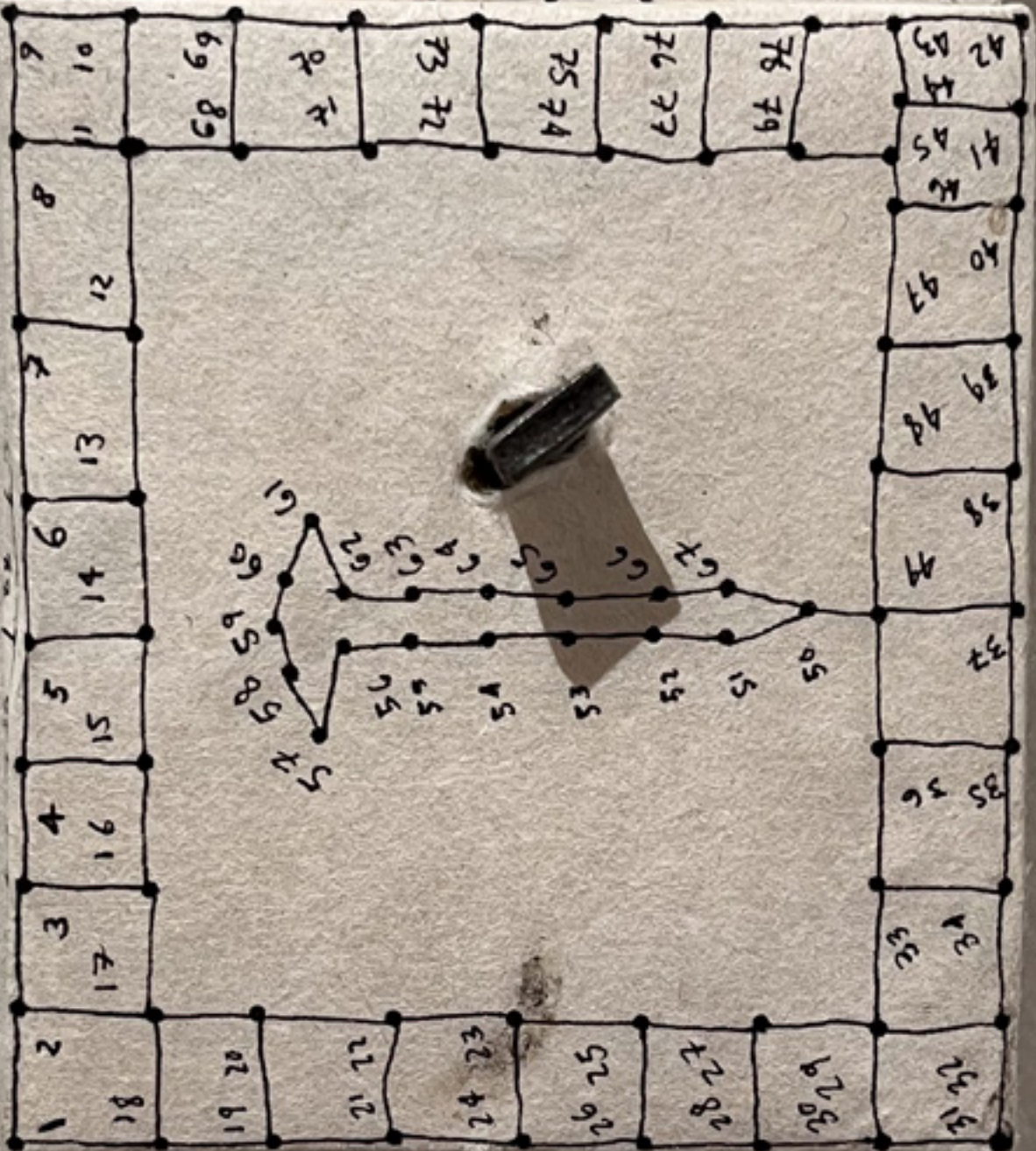
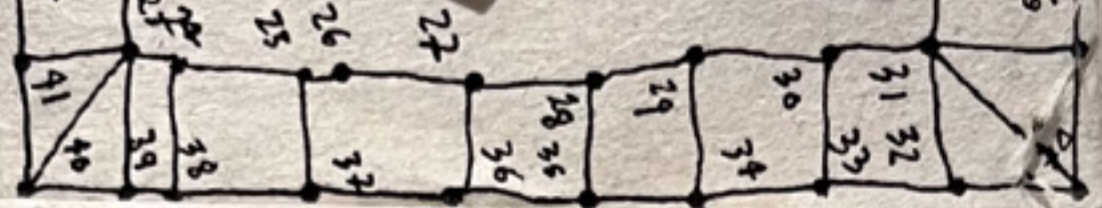
Kozo Kozo

2026

Ink, pencil, Mulberry paper

25 x 33 1/2 in.

Detail right.



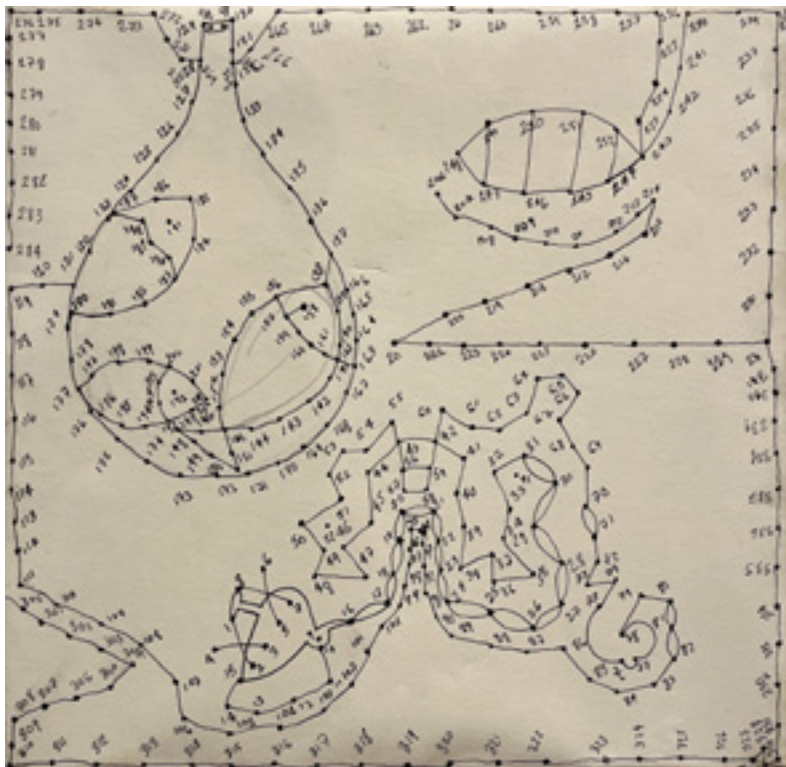
Soso Capaldi

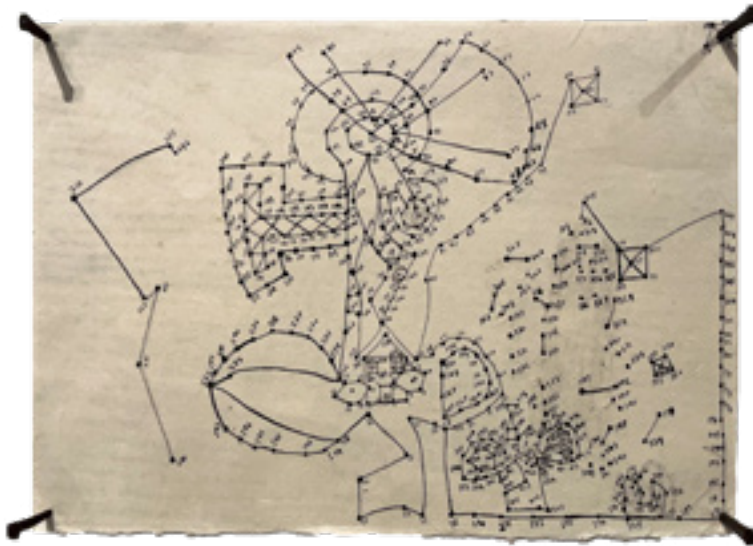
Parents Collaborative Fish Vase

2026

Ink, paper, wood

6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in.





Soso Capaldi

Miss you Mom

2025

Ink, Mulberry paper

9 1/2 x 12 1/2 in.



Soso Capaldi

Untitled

2026

Ink, wood, paper, nails

7 x 9 in.

Soso Capaldi

Osage and 46th

2025

Ink, pencil, Mulberry paper

9 1/2 x 12 1/2 in.



Soso Capaldi

How We Got Stacked

2024

Porcelain, underglaze

5 1/2 x 4 1/2 in.

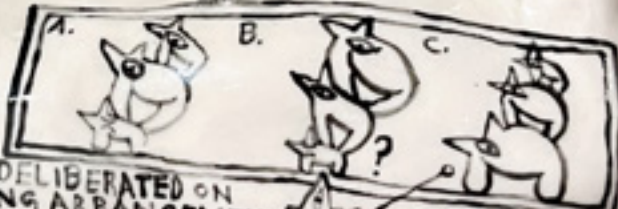


AND DELIBERATED ON
STACKING ARRANGEMENTS

DIFFERENT

WE
WOULD
BE
GETTING

IT'S SIMPLE REALLY



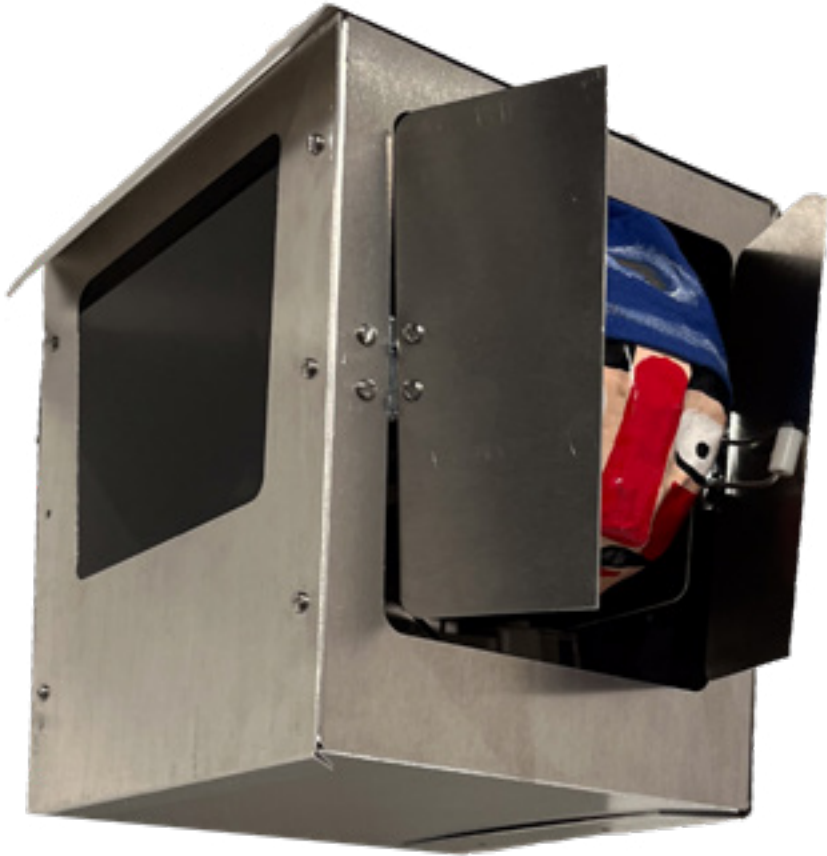




Ollie Goss is an artist, puppeteer, and performance-maker whose work blends sculptural installations, animated objects, re-tooled electronics and live performance. In 2016, they received the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship which took them to seven countries to research puppetry and collaborative performance making. Their work has been shown in places like Icebox Project Space, Temple Contemporary, the Wassaic Project, Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Dixon Place and La Mama. They regularly hold performance events throughout Philadelphia and in collaboration with Hannah Tardie annually curate work for the exhibition portion of Electronics Faire.

Ollie holds an MFA in Sculpture from Tyler School of Art and Architecture where they currently teach.





Ollie Goss

Birdhouse 1 + 2

2026

Aluminum, Papier-mâché, linear actuator, relay

6 x 4 1/2 x 7 in.



Ollie Goss

Rabbit Season

2026

Film, Ply puppet booth with acrylic and found fabric

64 x 37 x 37 in.

5 min.

Still following spread.













Previous spread:

Ollie Goss

The Show

2026

Papier-mâché, maple, motor, found fabric

Dimensions variable

Details left and right.







About the curator:

Dana Suleymanova is an artist, curator, and event organizer born in Tashkent and currently living in Philadelphia. In his artistic practice, he works in a wide range of mediums, including sculpture, moving image, and performance. They received their BFA from The University of Texas at Austin in 2018 and have shown at Vox Populi, Icebox Project Space, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Art League Houston, BOX 13 ArtSpace. She has also performed in festivals such as FringeArts in Philadelphia and Experimental Action in Houston. Their work examines the intersection of capitalism and gender while unpacking the clunkiness of being a queer immigrant from Central Asia.



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