

Gap Fill





New works by Montana Simone
Curated by Olivia DeCapri & Kendall Jacob
August 23, 2021 — February 28, 2022






Montana Simone's sculptures have accumulated in the gap of the pandemic, from materials available on the streets and building supplies near her studio in Ridgewood, Queens. Concrete, plaster, foam, steel mesh, fiberglass, resin and tarps are built up texturally, in defiance of structure and gravity – hanging, in balance, or rising like the overgrown ruins of industries on pause. The sculptures of *Gap Fill* do not transcend their material presence in favor of the substance behind it, rather their material presence is elevated to the level of content. By constructing a gaze that sees material qualities, Simone cuts a gash in the wall and reveals the hidden labor that makes up our newly burdened homes.




Rendered digitally, the 12 sculptures loosen their third dimension and enter the profane online space, collapsing in scale. While *What It Is* and *under the bridge* stand totemic and corporeal in the studio, they become a map of details on the screen and draw us into the secrets of their flesh. The *Koan* series spins like a video-game prize, digital light bouncing off its playful form. *Screen* provides the ethereal backdrop for this site-specific installation within the screen.

Using detailed images, 3D scans and videos, *Gap Fill* changes our physical relationship to the art work by sculpting the digital space around it. This interactive design emphasizes proximity in the absence of touch and an expansion of traditional viewpoints. IRL, the work breathes and shifts, in the realm of light, shadow and depth. In *Gap Fill*, we gather the works on a fixed axis and elevate the textural entry point to guide the viewer around the sculptures and bring them to life.

Gap Fill – Checklist

	<p><i>Vessel</i> 2020 concrete, aluminum sheeting, plaster, expanding foam, insulation foam 15" x 27" x 12"</p>
	<p><i>Koan I</i> 2020 plaster 24" x 24" x 5"</p>
	<p><i>Koan II</i> 2021 fiberglass, newspaper, resin 24" x 24" x 5"</p>
	<p><i>Koan III</i> 2021 concrete, fiberglass, expanding foam, aluminum sheeting 24" x 24" x 5"</p>

	<p><i>Koan IV</i> 2021 cement, bubble tarp 24" x 24" x 5"</p>
	<p><i>What It Is</i> 2020 insulation foam, expanding foam, aluminum sheeting, plaster 36" x 126" x 36"</p>
	<p><i>Screen</i> 2020 fiberglass, resin, 42" x 120" x 0.16"</p>
	<p><i>Death Mask</i> 2021 shrink wrap, expanding foam, plywood, plaster, bubble tarp 10" x 20" x 5",</p>
	<p><i>under the bridge</i> 2021 resin, chain, tarp 24" x 60" x 6"</p>

	<p><i>nightravel</i> 2020 plaster 6" x 36" x 2"</p>
	<p><i>orange guy</i> 2021 fruit net, expanding foam 6" x 15" x 6"</p>
	<p><i>foam hat</i> 2021 fruit net, expanding foam, 6" x 15" x 6"</p>