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# Rattled

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# Rattled

Manya Jacobson

Advisor: Summer Hills-Bonczyk

April, 2018

*Rattled*, 2018  
Manya Jacobson  
Ceramic and watercolor

Artist Statement:

Rats have existed alongside humans for thousands of years. They infest spaces, live in the underbelly of cities, and feed on our waste. They've made their way into our homes as pets and our labs as research tools. Rats can hold certain mythical weight, and are symbols in many fables and religious texts. The Karni Mata Temple in India reveres the rat, and over 25,000 live on its grounds and are fed by worshippers. Rats have the ability and tenacity to grow and spread anywhere they are given the opportunity.

*Rattled* is an art installation that examines the emotional impacts that animals have in human spaces through the use of rat imagery. The work explores the relationship between swarms of vermin and threats to the human body. The power of the rat to threaten humanity doesn't stem from one individual creature, but rather the power of reproduction that has created consequences to humanity through plague, famine and infestation.

Here, in the clean space of the gallery, the rat imagery takes on a new power through the weight of artistic reproduction. Each rat was sculpted and painted by hand in low-fire white clay and watercolor. This project uses ceramics as a medium to juxtapose the fragility and beauty of fired clay with the hardiness and adaptability of rats, while celebrating the fact that rats as a subject matter and clay as a material have coexisted with humans for thousands of years.





