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# Questions of Scale: Leah Harper’s “Mitosis” A Triumph at Yi Gallery

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A visitor can be forgiven for entering Yi Gallery’s current exhibition, “[Mitosis \(https://gallery-yi.com/exhibitions/15-leah-harper-mitosis-solo-exhibition/\)](https://gallery-yi.com/exhibitions/15-leah-harper-mitosis-solo-exhibition/)”, and wondering whether they’ve been shrunk down into an aesthetically pleasing science lab.

All that’s missing is the petri dish.

This solo show of works by Leah Harper indicates the scope and breadth of the artist's multi-disciplinary practice in dialogue with the lived environment, particularly with regards to marine life.



(<https://antecedentprojects.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/colony-7-glazed-porcelain-2021.jpeg>)

“Colony  
7” (2021)  
Glazed  
Porcelain,  
by Leah  
Harper  
for  
“Mitosis”

Image  
courtesy  
Yi  
Gallery.

The abstracted “creatures” that the artist presents assume migratory patterns, frozen in a form of arrested motion. By foregrounding the objects themselves, one is compelled to think to a larger scale – that of the ocean itself. With light-filled sculptures installed in clusters on the floor of the gallery, minute azure-hued clusters of works arranged in meticulous sculptural groupings on one consolidated wall, and one-dimensional representations of these same minuscule “creatures” framed throughout the gallery space, guests are reminded to consider the scale of environments they encounter.

Another consideration is the fragility embodied by the range of “creatures” the artist has created for the exhibition. Whether embracing glazed porcelain, mixed media with resin or working on paper, the works Harper presents in “Mitosis” exude an element of precarity and preciousness. The flattened lines and graceful curves of Harper’s forms give visitors a *tabula rasa* from which to frame personal reflections on their own encounters with the ocean and its fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs. These careful and clean linear stylings present in “Mitosis” are no accident, and their careful precision offer an homage to the delicate and overwhelming beauty found in nature’s presence.



(<https://antecedentprojects.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/yi-gallery-leah-harper-mitosis-april-may-installation-view-2.jpg>).

Installation view of "Mitosis" at Yi Gallery, courtesy the gallery.

Originally from the Gulf Coast of Florida and currently based in close proximity to the Atlantic in New York City, Harper's work provides a delicately beautiful elegy to the oceanic environments we are ever compelled to preserve, or risk losing forever. Drawing from a rich background spanning fine art, architecture and graphic design, Harper's perceptive work echoes Heidegger's concept of the essence of artwork as a means of access to better explore truth and culture. "Mitosis" serves as a springboard to better frame the truth of our lived environments, our responsibilities to them and our ability to perceive the beauty of the living creatures around us in their purest form.

"Mitosis" is on view at Yi Gallery through May 16, 2021, with visiting hours this Saturday, May 15th from 2-6 PM and other times by appointment only: <https://calendly.com/yigallery/private-viewing?month=2021-05> (<https://calendly.com/yigallery/private-viewing?month=2021-05>).

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