

Tanya Leighton

The Capilano Review

**A Humble Hum of Modern
Equivalences: On the
Work of Liz Magor and
Elizabeth McIntosh**



Elizabeth McIntosh, *The Accordion Player*, 2020, oil on canvas, 69 x 62 in. (175 x 158 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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Elizabeth McIntosh, *Help*, 2020, oil on canvas, 66 x 57 in. (168 x 145 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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Liz sculpts simple and base things
calls her arrangement "downer"

"Betty," or Other Liz, addresses
simple and base things with paint

A simple sleep mask
the base word

H E
L P

Painted, à la Léger, in canary green, in lemon-lime
and in snappy, electric blue strokes

The letters squirming of
General Idea's

A I
D S

"Mom or Mother" seen as plague, the painter
wishing she'd taken a xenofeminist stance

for the w-o-m-b

Instead has two
teen girls with pink cat ears

Reminders of the four-letter mantra
Robert Indiana said to

L O
V E

The detail playing in the outlines of an accordion
and in that ghastly chub of a plush jewel kit where

Mom or Mother Liz

Scatters zirconium treasure into the stoner's abyss
where worn velveteen things become useful again

This Downer
chains

Offering a cheap loud clasp
a golden rest

Mom or Mother meaning also that other woman
The one clutching onto the unfinished ladder

Painted right before a fall with gravity

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Elizabeth McIntosh, *High*, 2020, oil on canvas, 81 x 59 in. (206 x 149 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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her hands strangling her musing

When she goes h-i-g-h

“Come here, kitty-kit-kit!
Here, Darling Lunatic!”

Our thoughts go l-o-w

I hear the dragon-voiced huffs
of the eyeless lion when she says—

“Winner takes all!”

and the excited monkey with small brains
climbing down the tangled jungles of yarn

Gleaming hard, her plastic eyes
know she has won:

“Winner takes all”—the lion says again
this time more resigned

She's laying on her blankey, almost expired
but to each woman's cheer she says—

H A
H A

in her fateful toast

H E Y
H E Y

to
the mothers

H A
H A

to us
the eyeless lion says—

“Winner takes all!”

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Liz Magor, *Coiffed* (detail), 2020, painted plywood, fabric skirting, silicone rubber, artificial hair, acrylic throw, woollen blankets, silver fabric, linen, jewellery boxes, costume jewellery, packaging materials, 27 x 132 x 96 in. (69 x 335 x 244 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver



Liz Magor, *Coiffed* (detail), 2020, painted plywood, fabric skirting, silicone rubber, artificial hair, acrylic throw, woollen blankets, silver fabric, linen, jewellery boxes, costume jewellery, packaging materials, 27 x 132 x 96 in. (69 x 335 x 244 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver



Liz Magor, *Shaved* (detail), 2020, painted plywood, fabric skirting, silicone rubber, faux fur, toy tail, packaging materials, 23 x 120 x 109 in. (58 x 305 x 277 cm). Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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