



YOU'RE SOAKING IN IT

MELISSA STERN

You're Soaking In It

Assemblage

Melissa Stern

2017



Notes on “You’re Soaking In It”

I’ve always thought of my sculptures as three-dimensional drawings and my drawings as two-dimensional sculptures. The drawings have always been thick with many layers of surface. My sculptures, full of found and fabricated objects, have always had drawn and painted surfaces. In this body of work I have combined drawing and sculpture into assemblage pieces that work in both two and three dimensions. It’s fun and fun is good.

The title of the series “You’re Soaking In It” works on several levels. You can decide how you’d like to think of it. I mean, aren’t we all “soaking in it”?

Notes on “Other Stuff”

I work like a handyman cobbling together drawings and sculptures from elements found, borrowed, imagined and stolen. I use a wide range of materials from encaustic to clay, pastel to steel. The drawings and sculptures, often made in tandem, resonate between one another, the ideas in one reinforcing the themes of the other.

All of my pieces share a thematic thread. Sexless and goofy my figures live in a dream world, cower in relationships or stand tall in the face of adversity. They are at once dark and funny, expressive of the absurd world around us. The work is rooted in childhood memory. These memories are both funny and scary, child-like but quite serious. We are shaped by childhood and these memories chase us throughout our lives.

Each work is a fragment of a story rather than its full text. I never “write” the endings; each viewer completes the script, bringing their own history, memories and feelings to finish the piece.

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You're Soaking In It

Wood, clay, collage, objects, and resin, 29 x 19 x 15 inches, 2017



Bifocal

Wood, clay, oil paint, and charcoal, 16 x 15 x 2 inches, 2017



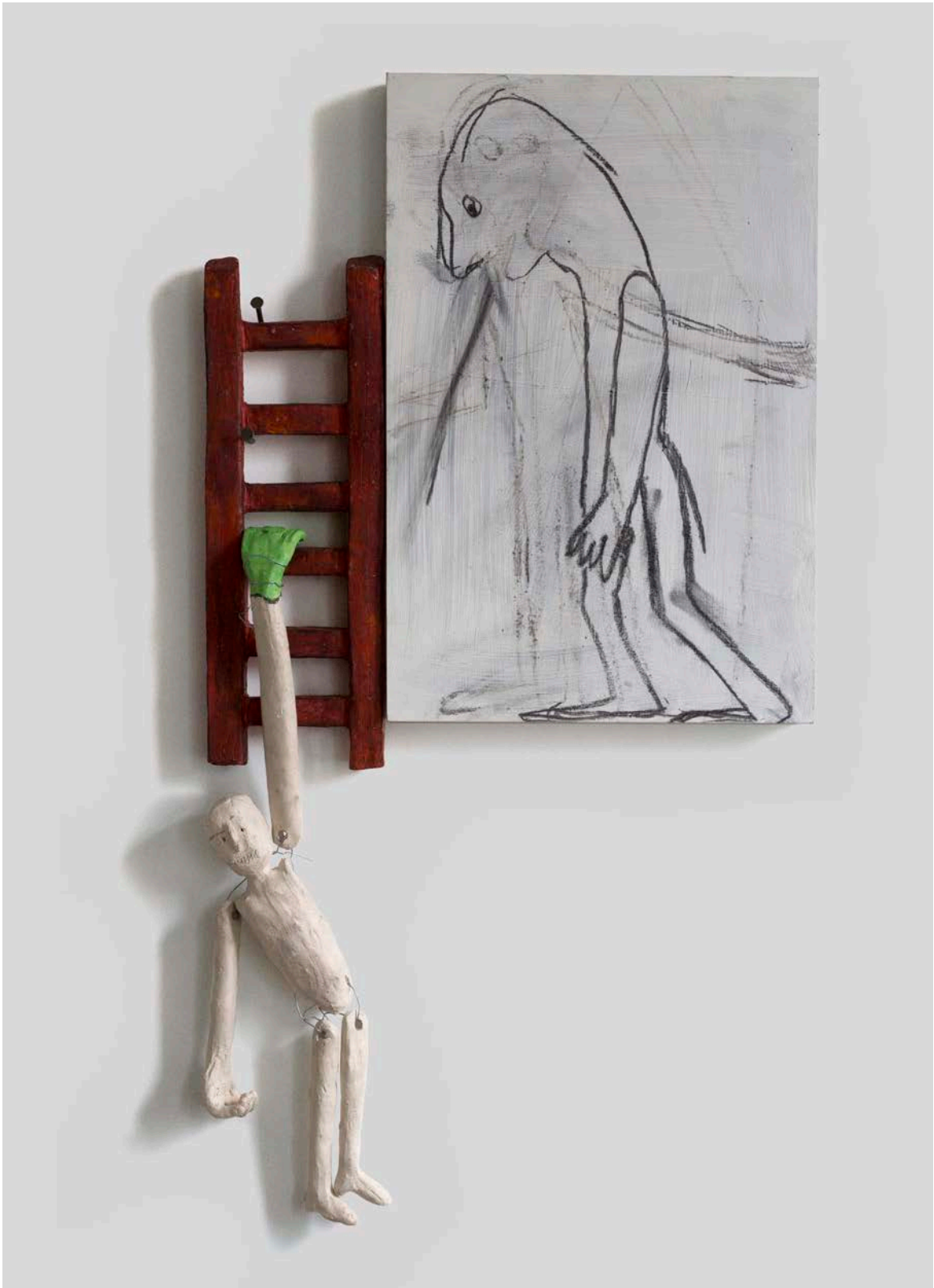
Souvenir

Mixed materials and collage, 22 x 13 x 5 inches, 2017



Green Hand

Wood, charcoal, clay, and paint, 33 x 17 x 1.5 inches, 2015



House Sitter

Wood, clay, paint, charcoal, and pastel, 10 x 19 x 1.5 inches, 2015



Aloha

Wood, clay, paint, pastel, objects, and nails, 24 x 12 x 5 inches, 2015



Yakity Yak

Wood, clay, oil stick, paint, stone, and graphite, 36.75 x 25 x 2.5 inches, 2015



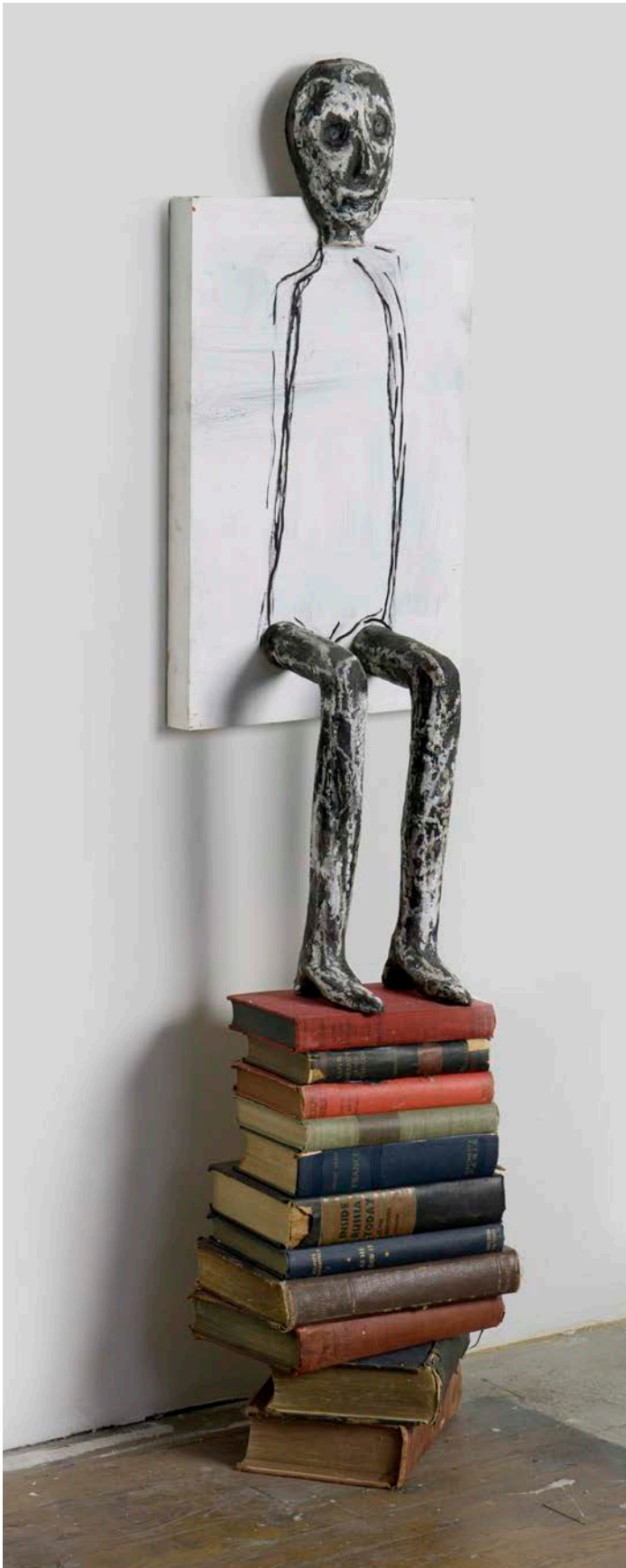
Half Life

Wood, clay, oil stick, paper, and paint, 13 x 13.5 x 3 inches, 2015



Overdue

Clay, book, wood, paint, and oil stick, 45 x 12 x 14 inches, 2015



Modern Art

Clay, wood, oil paint, and object, 38.5 x 19 x 9.5 inches, 2015



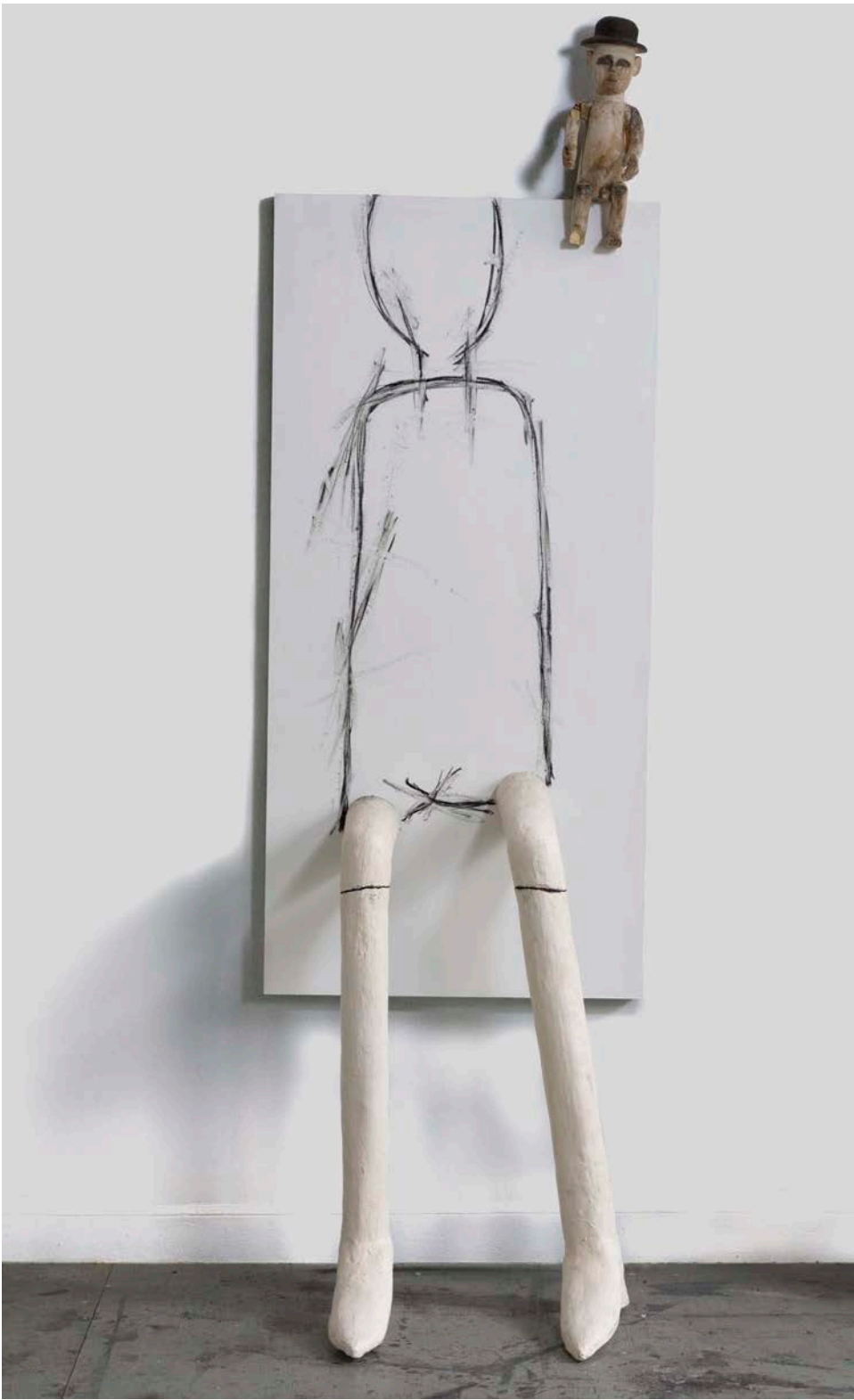
Born This Way

Clay, wood, copper, graphite, and paper, 36 x 6 x 3 inches, 2015



Little Friend

Clay, wood, charcoal, object, and ink, 78.5 x 24 x 22 inches, 2015



Curly Q

Clay, wood, metal, ink, graphite, and paint, 10 x 10 x 1 inches, 2015



Shelf Life

Clay, paint, metal, wood, and rubber, 25 x 10 x 6 inches, 2015



Upstairs Downstairs

Clay, wood, and mixed materials, 27 x 12 x 9 inches, 2015



Vienna

Clay, paint, and object, 21 x 7 x 3.5 inches, 2014



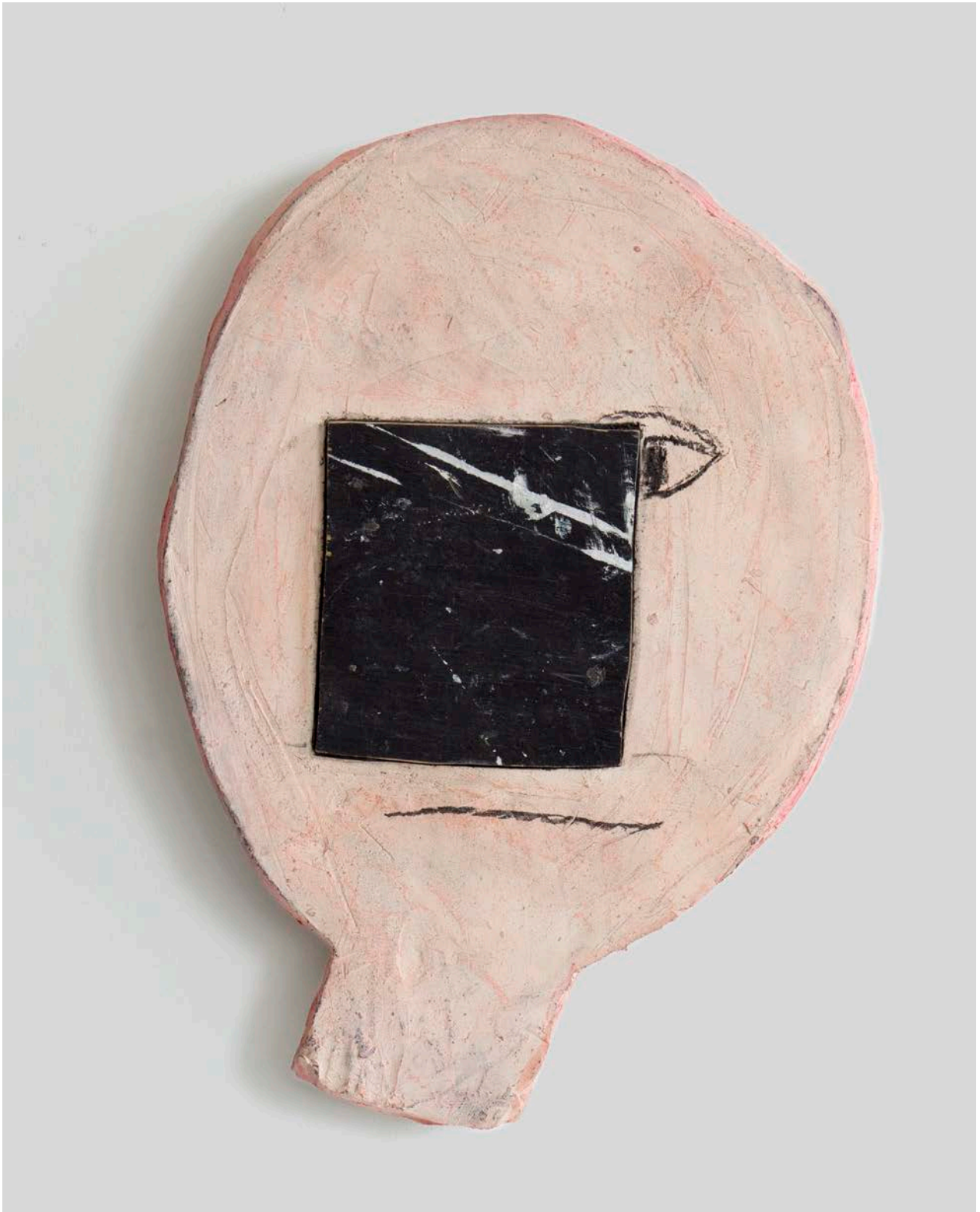
Anthropology

Clay, mixed materials, and collage, 24 x 19 x 4 inches, 2016



Thought-Full

Clay, pastel, charcoal, and wood, 19 x 13 x 3.5 inches, 2016



My Family

Clay, wood, paint, collage, and objects, 21 x 12 x 3.5 inches, 2016



Concentric

Clay, ink, found objects, and glass, 13.75 x 10 x 4 inches, 2017



Thought-Less

Clay, oil paint, encuastic, graphite, and paper, 16 x 16 x 4 inches, 2016



Enjoy the Holidays

Clay, wood, plaster, paper, and paint, 19 x 18 x 7 inches, 2016



Two Men, Looking Left

Clay, wood, oil paint, oil stick, and object, 34 x 33 x 3 inches, 2015



First Position

Clay, wood, and collage drawings, 16 x 9.5 x 7.25 inches, 2015



Sit

Clay, wood, ink, charcoal, oil paint, and oil stick, 73.5 x 24 x 22 inches, 2015



Broken Toys

Clay, wood, oil paint, graphite, charcoal, and object, 33 x 28 x 8 inches, 2015





www.melissa-stern.com
www.thetalkingcureproject.com
www.speakingintongues.melissa-stern.com

Loose lips, sink ships.

