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LaunchPad

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joan Mullen: *Cover*

May 10 – June 11, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 27, 4 – 7pm

Artist Talk: May 27, 5pm

First Friday Reception: June 2, 5 – 8pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 am – 5pm & by appointment

Joan Mullen’s exhibition *Cover* features a series of sculptures created by combining found objects with cast forms. Working with these forms, Mullen reconfigures the sculptures with additional materials and processes to heighten their psychological impact.

Mullen began working on the series in response to Richard Mosse’s video installation titled *Incoming*, and the book *Exit West: A Novel* by Mohsin Hamid, both of which examine the experiences of refugees. She has since begun to explore more deeply the notion of concealment and the many experiences we hide in plain view. Mullen states, “With this series, I worked intuitively, piecing together the raw and found materials, finding the logic of each piece to create a sense of comfort and refuge.”

Originally from Rhode Island, Mullen spent her twenties and thirties living in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Brooklyn before returning to New England. She received a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art and an MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Since moving to the Boston area, her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in galleries, museums, and alternative spaces, and she has been commissioned for large-scale corporate sculptures. Mullen has taught at many museums and colleges, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, and Stonehill College, and was an Art Tutor for Mathew House at Harvard University. She is currently a Professor of Art at Bridgewater State University.

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