

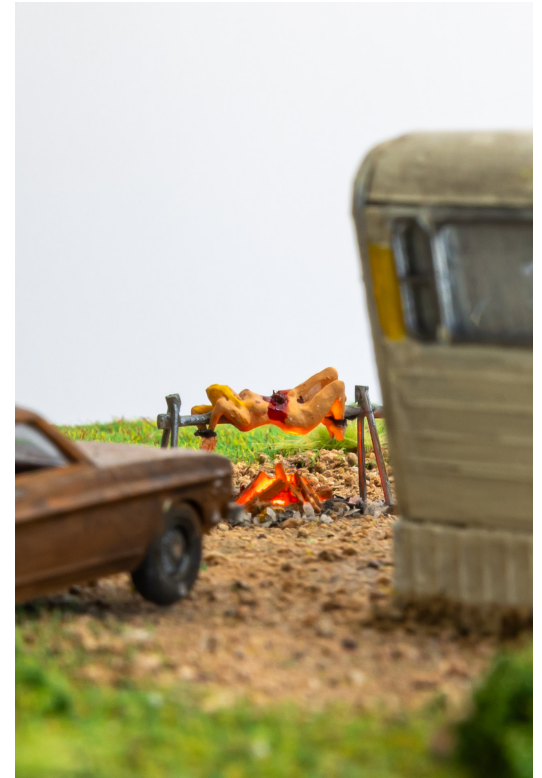
HASHIMOTO CONTEMPORARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State of Nature

a solo exhibition by Abigail Goldman
August 10 - 31, 2024

NEW YORK CITY—Arguments about true human nature are a cornerstone of the Western philosophical canon. Optimists like John Locke believed life before governmental rule was a magnanimous paradise, while pessimists like Thomas Hobbes believed life before a ruler was “nasty, brutish, and short.” Washington-based miniaturist Abigail Goldman leans begrudgingly towards the latter. Her latest solo exhibition, *State of Nature* with Hashimoto Contemporary, explores the brutal impulses typically suppressed in everyday life on a 1:87 scale. Goldman uses her bloody miniature dieoramas not to shock but to present complex and seemingly absurd narratives of human compulsions that bubble below the surface.



Beyond the usual empty fields or rocky cliff sides, Goldman’s newest narratives of humans in their brutish natural state occur inside picturesque homes, fine dining restaurants, and even Buckingham Palace. Figures no larger than a pinky-fingernail spill and ooze blood, consume human flesh, and execute their houseguests among pleasant interiors. Perhaps due to their size or the elements of surprise, the gory incidents are laced with dark humor. There’s always something funny about elderly women in their Sunday finest breaking from expected composure. Goldman imagines these images of ordinary, respectable people lashing out or giving into their urges as cathartic—it’s something you didn’t know you needed until you had it.

While the exhibition’s title refers to a time before human governance, Goldman clarifies that there *are* governing forces similar to ours in these miniature worlds. “We’re generally polite. We stand in line. We signal to turn,” she writes. “We mostly follow the rules. But we’re fraying at the edges and a certain kind of madness is setting in. If people find any truth in my work, perhaps it’s seeing subterranean feelings suddenly come to the surface.” Goldman’s work is brutally honest about taboo violent fantasies buried under social contracts. With charm and remarkable craftsmanship, the artist invites us to wonder about our own actions without state rule and underscores our choices when the world is foregone into chaos.

State of Nature opens Saturday, August 10th, with a reception from 6-8 pm. The artist will be in attendance. The exhibition runs through August 31st. For additional images or feature opportunities, email NYC@hashimotocontemporary.com

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WHAT:

State of Nature

a solo exhibition by Abigail Goldman

WHERE:

Hashimoto Contemporary

54 Ludlow Street

New York, NY 10002

WHEN:

Opening night reception: Saturday, August 10th from 6-8 pm

On view through Saturday, August 31st

RELEVANT LINKS:

Hashimoto Contemporary: <https://www.hashimotocontemporary.com/>

Abigail Goldman: <https://www.abigailgoldman.com/>

Abigail Goldman Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tinylittlelives/>

ABOUT THE GALLERY:

Hashimoto Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery originally founded in 2013 by Ken Harman Hashimoto. In 2023 the gallery announced two new partners, Dasha Matsuura and Jennifer Rizzo. Our roster consists of an eclectic blend of emerging and mid-career contemporary artists working. Hashimoto Contemporary provides a platform for artists whose identities and subjects have been historically relegated to the margins, as well as artists whose practices fit neatly into the canon of art history. You can find us at the Minnesota Street Project (San Francisco), the Lower East Side (New York City) and Culver City (Los Angeles) where our three spaces organize new exhibitions monthly.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Abigail Goldman's artistic practice centers around miniature scenes of gruesome murders in plastic and acrylic. Dubbing her works "die-o-ramas," Goldman's miniature sculptures are rendered in 1:87 scale- each tiny figure is well under an inch tall, making them grotesque but familiar, grim but cute. The work's diminutive size contrasts with the larger-than-life tableaux of gore and mayhem rendered within. Though many of the narratives in Goldman's scenes seem like something pulled from fiction, the artist draws almost exclusively from her professional life, where she witnesses and researches the "escalating feedback loop of rage and violence" present in American culture. At once adorable and offensive, Goldman's die-o-ramas explore our relationship to violence-its omnipresence and resulting banality, as well as our innate attraction to the grisly and macabre.

Goldman's miniatures have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and her work has been featured by numerous media outlets, including the LA Times, New York Times, NPR, Atlas Obscura, Juxtapoz, and Huffington Post. In March 2019, Goldman and her work were the subject of a documentary produced for Topic Magazine.