

anna weber
ultra-megadontia

february 1 to 27, 2007

Motel is pleased to present, *Ultra-Megadontia*, the first solo exhibition of Anna Weber (Portland). In this unified sculptural series, Weber presents a full set of oversized human teeth, cast in plaster and hand-painted. Installed in the gallery on one wall, these sculptural works mimic the human jaw, writ large. In keeping with Weber's past work, this series exemplifies a fixation with anatomical processes, a fascination with unrealistic scale, and an interest in clinical and scientific methodologies and their dated modalities.

Begun as a singular attempt to replicate, in large scale, a wisdom tooth belonging to the artist's father, this series is crafted with scientific accuracy and endowed a subtle patina of age. Cast in plaster, as with many anatomical models of the past, these sculptures are at once mundane and sublime. The gilding of caps and filling in the molars allude to decay, clinical intervention, and bling. In the vein of the wonder cabinet and the natural history museum, Weber turns the ordinary objects into extraordinary spectacle.

Weber's fascination with the subject draws from the tooth's function as an "anatomical souvenir". A relic of the body, teeth bear intrinsic value; if one loses a tooth, there is an inclination to save it. Like crystals, teeth are presumed to possess both biological and metaphysical properties. A tooth is the only thing that comes from the body that isn't gross if you keep it.

Ultra-Megadontia marks Weber's largest and most focused body of work thus far. Her deft use of a variety of media and conceptual commitments mark Weber as a talented and promising young artist. We are pleased to welcome her back to the gallery.

BIOGRAPHY

Anna Weber (b. 1983, Boise, Idaho) lives and works in Portland, Oregon. Weber is primarily a self-taught artist, having studied one year at PNCA (2005-2006). Her other bodies of work have included costumery, puppetry, and soft-sculpture in addition to painting, drawing and serigraph. Anna last showed at Motel in September of 2003 in a 2-person show with Andrew Brandou, "After Audubon". She also performs with the troupe "Fleshtone".