

I Am A Thing That Holds Something Else

Ray Madrigal

ACRE Projects
January 17 through March 3

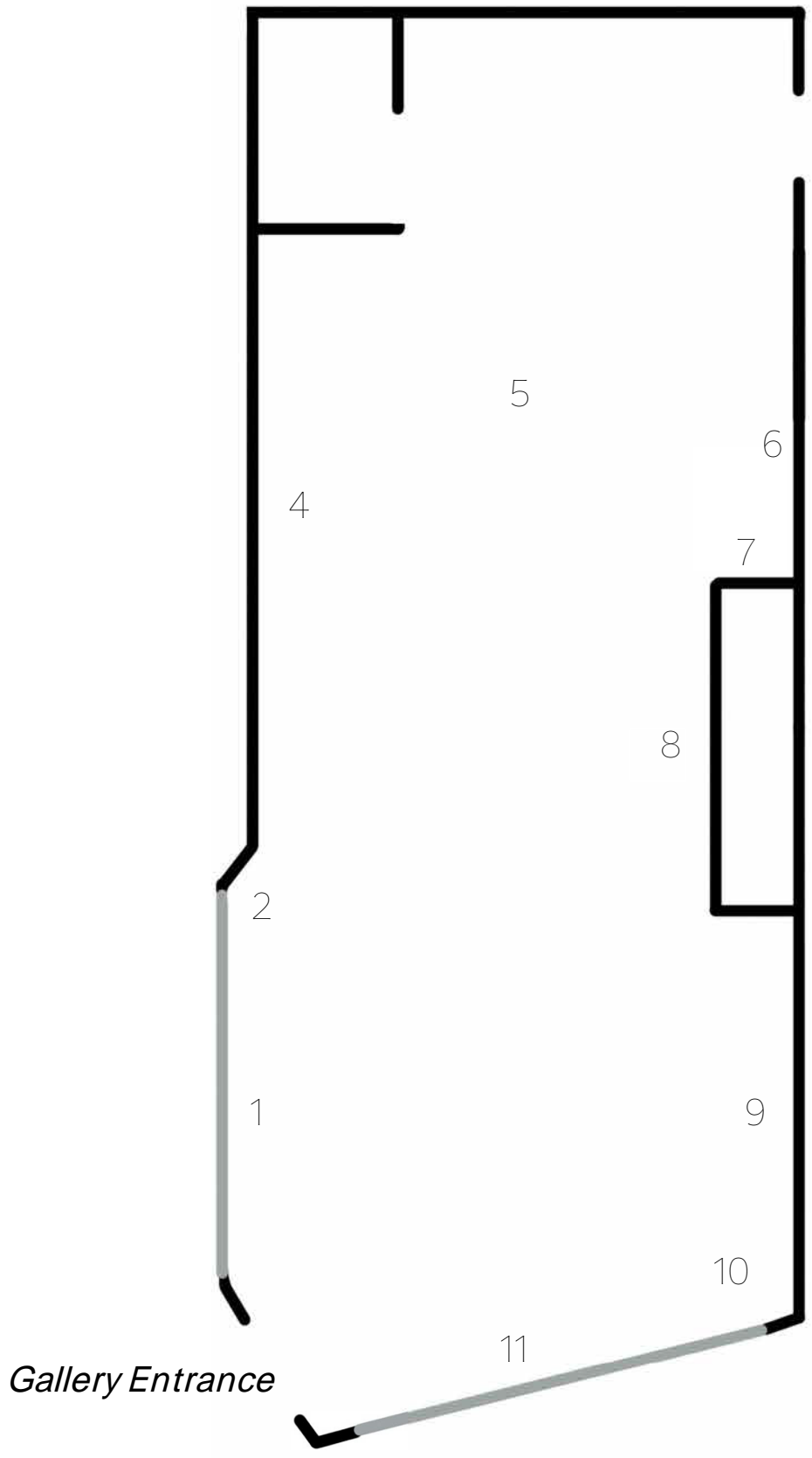
Humans, half liquid, are good at assuming the form of the containers we occupy. The world we've built exerts its influence over us just as we have in constructing it – we perfect, adjust, corrode, and inherit each other.

In this feedback loop of material to meaning, we also find ourselves inextricably linked to other people. When we touch the things that sustain us, we inadvertently tug at the endless strands of humans who made these objects possible.

I Am A Thing That Holds Something Else is a body of work that attempts to articulate this nested nature of our shared reality. The objects within encourage a slower study of the quick little details we move amongst daily – they are a bid for closer scrutiny of the worldly experiences that hold us in, hold us up, and hold us back.

Under this concentrated gaze, ours is a world that can be redesigned with softer intent.

Made again, even in very small ways, to better hold us and our broad imaginings.



1. *Duet Between Lesbian and Field Sparrow (We Know Instinctively How To Make Something To Hold Something)*
2024
Leather, hardware, nest
23 x 5 x 5"
2. *Ward*
2024
Canceled Link card, twelve holy charms, nail
2.5 x 3.25"
2024
3. *Sunlight in Two Forms*
2023
Acrylic and milk on panel
17 x 11 x 1"
4. *Pretty Private*
2022 - 2024
Time theft and borrowed mechanical pencil on office paper, plaster and iron oxide frame
11.75 x 17.25 x 1.75"
5. *Cage In A Cage In A Cage*
2024 - present
Found images
Dimensions variable
6. *Schrödinger's Dog*
2023 - 2024
Time theft and borrowed mechanical pencil on office paper, plaster and iron oxide frame
15.875 x 13.75 x 1.75"
7. *Aftercare*
2025
Brick, needles, cotton, polyfill, hair
7 x 13 x 6"
8. *Everything You Need*
2024 - present
Acrylic on stretched bedsheet
36 x 48"
9. *Another Thing About Love (I Would Know The Shape Of Her Hands Anywhere, Even In The Dark)*
2023 - 2024
Time theft and borrowed mechanical pencil on office paper, plaster and iron oxide frame
15.5 x 12 x 1.75"
10. *Spare*
2025
Hide-a-key, miniatures
3.5 x 2.25 x 1"
11. *Neighbors' Fences*
2024 - present
Eight wrought iron fence toppers, lumber
19.5 x 144.75 x 7.25"

Ray Madrigal (b.1999, Sacramento, CA) is a third generation Chicax Lesbian and maker. Their work is concerned with worldly details, and how elements of the everyday might be studied to the benefit of vibrant Queer survival. As a descendant of immigrant farm laborers, Madrigal strives to take nothing for granted in an increasingly unlikely life. They hold a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and were named Home Depot Associate of the Month at store #6675 from October 2020 through February 2021. Their work has been featured by the Corning Museum of Glass in New York, the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, and the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art in Texas. They currently live, work, and play in Chicago, IL.

raymadrigalmakes.wixsite.com/