

Artist Statement:

The Loving Family

Appearing to be happy at work and play, the all-American family puts on a good face for the outside world. But within the home, the façade breaks and a darker side becomes visible. The home reveals multiple types of emotional and physical scarring. Each member of the family unit has the potential to create turmoil and violence. Shedding light on the “loving family,” this is an investigation into the darker side of domesticity and its psychological and social ramifications. Psychologists use play as a means of ascertaining a family’s propensity for violence. By utilizing the idea of play therapy, my work looks into the psyche of family violence.

Continuing Research:

The research and investigation into the psychological and domestic issues contained in my work, associates the mental properties of who we are and what we become. At the end of my college degree I understood one thing very well: this is a very deep hole. By continuing my research and thoughts on this project, I am guided to splitting the development of the project on play therapy into two parts. The first is to continue working with dolls and doll houses as one of the ideological traits of play. The second is to explore play therapy, especially sand tray therapy. I believe that there is a larger series to come out of the research into play therapy, which will include collaborating with a play therapist.

Michael Wessel