



Image: Shelley Spector, *Red Flood*, 2012. Reclaimed fabric and wood with thread, 11 x 7.5 x .5”

Shelley Spector: I Live Here

May 15 - June 26

Saturdays & Sundays 12 – 6, and by appointment or happenstance

Room & Board, artist’s residency and salon

153 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

www.roomandboard.nyc

Room & Board presents Shelley Spector: I Live Here, exhibition of works by Philadelphia artist in an alternative art space

Room & Board, experimental artist’s residency and salon, presents an exhibition of works in multiple mediums by Philadelphia artist Shelley Spector. *Shelley Spector: I Live Here* will include works in sculpture, embroidery, print, and installation. The exhibition draws from multiple bodies of work in Spector’s practice, and includes new pieces on view for the first time. All works are united by Spector’s reuse of discarded and unwanted materials, as well as their complex relationships to the idea of home.

The opening brunch-time celebration will take place on **Sunday, May 15**, 12 - 3 p.m., when the artist will be present to greet visitors and discuss her work. Guests are invited to visit the exhibition and to have a cup of coffee and a bagel with the artist. Spector will return on Saturday, June 11, at 3 p.m., to lead a workshop in constructing tomato-shaped pincushions inspired by her research into Victorian craft traditions.

In Room & Board's exhibition space – the home of its director and curator, Julia Pelta Feldman – Spector's works will assume the guise of household objects: curtains, canned goods, pincushions, wallpaper, mirrors. Yet even as they mimic and take the place of these familiar, ordinary things, Spector's works announce that they do not belong here. They are marked by their strange materiality: the curtains are made of wood, the wallpaper of old cardboard, and the cans of food are ornamented beyond recognition. Spector avoids raw materials, preferring to repurpose used and discarded things that have already taken part in others' lives. Her works, so redolent of home, thus link themselves to larger webs of family, production, and consumption far beyond the confines of Room & Board's upholstered environs.

Spector's works in embroidery, in particular, embody the importance of home, even as they represent the forces that threaten it. One such work, *Red Flood* (2012), is at once abstract and pictorial, charming and unsettling. The embroideries distill natural disasters into delicate, graphic motifs: flood, hurricane, fire, tornado, nuclear fallout. Hanging on the walls, Spector's embroideries assume the guise of paintings, but their round wooden frames suggest embroidery hoops and their frank materiality grounds them in the realm of craft. At once cozy and uneasy, the embroideries – like much of Spector's work – express the comfort and safety of home while calling forth the larger environment beyond it. In so doing, they reflect Room & Board's own project of opening up its living space to the outside world.

“Shelley's show will be the first exhibition at Room & Board, which has previously focused on performances and events,” said director and curator Julia Pelta Feldman, who runs the residency and salon out of her home in the heart of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. “During the exhibition, I won't just be exhibiting her works, I'll be cohabitating with them. For six weeks, they'll live here, too. It's a very intimate way of bringing life and art together.”

Shelley Spector is a multidisciplinary artist based in Philadelphia. She builds works that use personal objects, experiences, and ideas to search for communal identity. Her work is part of many public and private collections including The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC. Her most recent solo exhibition, *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, was at The Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2015. Spector has received grants from the Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Leeway Foundation.

The exhibition at Room & Board will be accompanied by a hand-made catalogue with a statement from Spector, an original essay by Feldman, and images of the works. The catalogue is being produced in an edition of 100, and will be available to purchase at the opening and throughout the exhibition.

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Room & Board, founded in 2014, is an artist's residency, salon, and art space in a red brick townhouse in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It is also the home of its director and curator, Julia Pelta Feldman, who invites artists of all stripes to live with her for a month and present their work in the space. Shelley Spector's work will be resident in May and June, 2016. Events at Room & Board are free and open to all.