Chris Bradley

Sculptor Chris Bradley (American, b. 1982) explores objects that are so commonplace we stop noticing them. In this exhibition, he draws attention to items such as hand trucks, night stands, and pretzel sticks by representing them in painted steel, wood, or cast bronze. What appear to be stacks of paint cans are actually made of finely crafted turned poplar with steamed maple handles and are presented at different stages of completion. Bradley playfully manipulates his materials to engage viewers in a game of looking and remind us that things are not always what they seem.

Bradley also wants viewers to see beyond his objects and into the imaginative possibilities that lie dormant in the world. The *Freezer Doors* series, for example, transforms the interior gallery into an unconventional view of a convenience store: the doors' reversed images and text suggest that viewers stand inside a freezer. The doors are made from wire glass—engineered to withstand extreme high temperatures—a precaution that confounds its context and use. Sculptures resembling hand trucks also populate the space, strewn with unlikely things such as banana peels. The works are presented on stands that simultaneously reference everyday furniture and sculptural bases.

In the exterior gallery, paint cans sitting on nightstands inhabit the very space of our sleep, perching at the precipice of our subconscious. These nightstand-plinths also duplicate other spaces—a swimming pool in one of the drawers and a replica of the third-floor interior gallery in another. The adjacent walls present a wandering potato, a horizon line made of pretzel sticks, and an embedded storefront, stairwell, and hallway. Together, Bradley's absurd juxtapositions ask us to consider the strangeness of the world.

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This exhibition is organized by Joey Orr, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow.