

soft presence, hard absence: Dorner Prize, May 7, 2024 - Sep 14, 2024

An interplay of soft fabrics printed with images of historical documents and threads that drape over storage shelving, *soft presence, hard absence* offers an alternate system where the RISD Museum's collection can be more easily accessed. Silk and linen threads wrap and tangle around museum paperwork and reproductions of objects not available for public viewing, suggesting the possibility of unraveling hidden stories. Paintings that can't be requested for in-person viewing are copied in air-dry clay and resin, making them visible to the public. On view in the Chace Center lobby, this installation by artist Linda Sok (RISD MFA 2025, Sculpture), winner of the 2024 Dorner Prize, encourages viewers to reconsider the conventions of collections and storage, and invites conversations around inaccessibility within standard museum practices.

The Dorner Prize is an annual juried competition that invites RISD student artists and designers to create new installations, performances, programs, or digital encounters that engage the public by using the RISD Museum's object collections, public spaces, and digital platforms. The Dorner Prize, named for the distinguished early 20th-century RISD Museum director Alexander Dorner, is made possible by a generous anonymous gift.

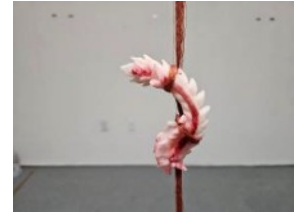
2024 Jurors: Hillel O'Leary (RISD BFA 2011), assistant professor, Industrial Design, RISD; and Gabrielle Walker, Nancy Elizabeth Prophet Curatorial Assistant, RISD Museum

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Linda Sok, b. 1993; works in USA and Australia; (RISD MFA 2025 Sculpture)

Inaccessible Objects 2024

Silk, linen, dye, air-dry clay, and resin casts of air-dry clay objects. Reproductions of objects from the RISD Museum collection in off-site storage include two paintings by Joseph Lindon Smith and one by his daughter, Rebecca Smith; an article titled "An Apsara from Angkor-Wat" from the Bulletin of the Rhode Island School of Design, July 1924; and letters exchanged between Joseph Lindon Smith and the RISD Museum director, November 4, 1919–May 15, 1924
Courtesy of the artist TL52.2024



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