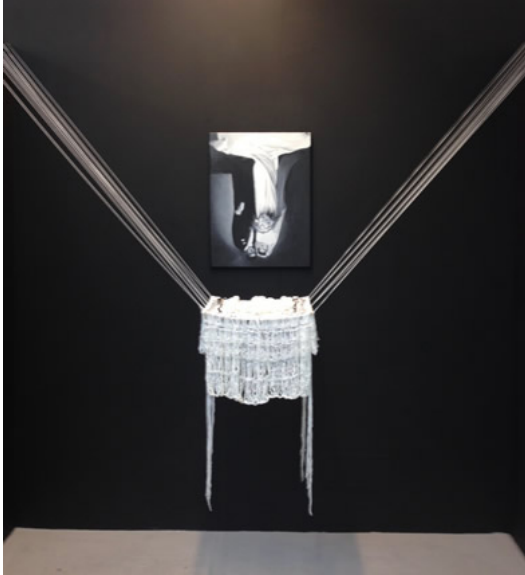


# Lin-Lin Mao

## ARTIST STATEMENT



*Spoon* by Lin-Lin Mao, 2017. Acrylic on canvas, yarn, spoon, fork. Variable size: minimum of 20 inches wide 15 inches deep, 72 inches tall.

The nature of the human condition which we try to control versus the nature of the universe which we cannot control are topics Lin-Lin Mao is investigating and sharing through her art practice. Lin-Lin Mao works in 2-dimensional and multi-dimensional spaces and sees painting as the act of putting marks onto or into a space.

Lin-Lin's art work may at first look absurd, whimsical, or unusual but invites the viewer to investigate and discover, and to interpret the work in their own way with what they bring to the conversation. Her current work uses human scaled rooms so that viewers can move around to investigate the work from different perspectives.

Through the use of selected materials and the positioning of objects, Lin-Lin is trying to break stereotypes of seeing. Lin-Lin uses crocheted yarn in her work to elevate the status of "women's

work" which historically has been seen as less important than men's work. To create her installations, she has also used math to square off a round crocheted mandala, and engineering to level and give strength to crocheted pieces so that they are able to support everything falling from them or sitting on top of them. As a woman, she feels that this is important to state since often women are not recognized for their problem solving or engineering skills.

When Lin-Lin started the pieces titled "Mandala Reigns" and "Spoon" she was asking philosophical questions. In "Mandala Reigns" she is questioning the nature of the universe. She uses yarn that represent all the colors of the visible spectrum as a metaphor for the limits of our senses and the instruments that are extensions of our senses to perceive the complete reality of the universe. In "Spoon" she is questioning how things are defined. Are they defined by form or function? Can a doily with 4 legs be called a table or does it need to be able to hold objects? Can a spoon be considered the artwork?

The viewers of course bring their own interpretations into the works. They may see in "Spoon" the delicate balancing act of a marriage. They may see in "Mandala Reigns" a bunch of colors vying for attention. No matter the artist's intention, if there is an engaging conversation between the viewer and the artwork, then the artwork has succeeded.



*Mandala Reigns* by Lin-Lin Mao, 2017. Yarn, 130 inches wide, 56 inches deep, 84 inches tall.