

**/Nick Makanna/
in
/room/**



Curatorial Note:

Makanna Seismic Retrofit Inc. is a site-specific installation that imposes in its precarity. Three columns have been embedded in the space, constructed to stretch from floor to ceiling. They act as afterthoughts: airy structures awkwardly posturing as supports to the crooked ceiling beams that run from one end of the room to the other. Too fragile to bear weight, they exist nonetheless. Futile gestures performed in spite of their inadequacy, they evoke self-deprecating humor and care in their commitment.

Each column's core structure has been completely covered with a thin layer of reddish clay that shows marks of hands pressing and molding. The clay is unfired. Drying, it has begun to crack, leaving fissures and crumbling in chunks, whose absences reveal burlap and plywood underneath.

This installation is situated within the entangled landscape of San Francisco, an earthquake city where lives, towering buildings, expanding industries, and neighborhoods exist alongside unbridled geological and environmental forces and economic uncertainty. Makanna's sculptures grapple with the unknowability of existing within this fragile place.

The columns, looming in their height, also resemble tree trunks, organic forms pressing up against the room's architecture, not so much supporting but pushing beyond

the limits of the space. Perhaps, we are being asked to consider what came before or what comes after landscapes inevitably shift across time. These strange, decaying tree-like forms, themselves acutely impermanent, may be what ultimately takes over when all of our feeble attempts to prevent or delay the inexorable fail.

- Maxine Schoefer-Wulf

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Nick Makanna is a San Francisco based artist, creating looming ceramic sculptures which evoke a sense of dusty empires, decaying monuments and fragile landscapes. These precarious structures are Inspired as much by the Bay Area's rich ceramic tradition and ever changing landscapes, as they are by an end of days anxiety that accompanies our impending political and environmental crises. He has exhibited most recently as part of Berkeley Art Museum's "Way Bay" exhibition, and at Bay Area galleries including Guerrero Gallery, The Richmond Art Center and Alter Space. Makanna received an MFA from SFAI.