



The Reunion Negar Devine-Tajgardan

April 14 — May 28, 2022

About *The Reunion*

The delicate work in this exhibition is part of Negar Devine-Tajgardan's ongoing exploration of memory, displacement and reconciliation. The miniature models of furniture she creates are stand-ins for objects that hold the residues of (and triggers for) memory.

"Change is an inevitable fact in everyone's lives," she writes. Drawing on her Iranian background, Negar grapples with the inevitable loss and imperfect adaptation to a different world. "I began with my own experience as someone of Middle Eastern background living in Canada, representing my memories of my safe place and the connection I am making with my new safe place." (NDT)

In a related work entitled: *Family Reunion* (2018 – 20), she asked relatives to send her pictures of the objects around them - objects that she used to construct small replicas. The replicas were metaphors for the impossibility of a family reunion. The memory-triggers the artist's fragile little objects invoke: chairs, tables and lamps - spark off the nearly imperceptible sense of differences that Marcel Duchamp

referred to with his concept of *infrathin*.

Infrathin is the name Duchamp gave to the infinitesimal: Things and/or experiences that are strangely palpable - and not. Differences between two apparently identical things, as in: two casts from the same mould or the weight of a shirt before and after being worn. In the case of this *Reunion*, the *Infrathin* may suggest that perfect reconciliation with changed circumstances and perfect feelings of safety... - may be impossible.

Negar Devine-Tajgardan is a recent MFA graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. As an Iranian expatriate, she is acutely aware of and interested in the sense of displacement that new Canadians experience.

Thirty boxes (each 1'x1'x4") stacked on each other and hung on the wall, containing small, delicately made furniture replicas, made with wire and a water-dissolving substrate, all of which re-enacts the longing for familial connection.

Image: Detail of *The Reunion*, in the Project Space