

WORKING ARTIST | BAYLEE SCHMITT

Baylee Schmitt crocheted the childhood bedroom she shared with her twin

Being an artist ‘is a point of individuality,’ says Schmitt, whose installation is at LaiSun Keane

By **Cate McQuaid** Globe Correspondent, Updated January 13, 2025, 7:00 a.m.



Baylee Schmitt poses for a portrait beside pieces from her new show at LaiSun Keane. Schmitt crocheted her childhood home from memory; this installation features the bedroom she shared with her twin sister. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

[Baylee Schmitt's](#) crocheted installation at LaiSun Keane, “We settle into corners with the dust and mites,” recreates the bedroom she shared with her fraternal twin sister, Allie, until they were in eighth grade. Crocheted beds hang from the ceiling; a crocheted television has “America’s Next Top Model” in needlework on the screen.

“This is a way for me to figure out how I came to be the way I am, especially in relation with my sister,” Schmitt told the Globe as she installed her show. “We’re a unit. We arrived in the world at the same time. Theoretically, we were parented the same way, but we’re so distinct from each other that then those questions turn inward and it’s like, ‘Why am I the way that I am?’ This is the way that I’ve come to ask those questions.”



Baylee Schmitt looped yarn around one of her pieces to hang it as she installed her new show at LaiSun Keane. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Where to find her: www.instagram.com/bayleeksart/

Age: 26

Originally from: West Unity, Ohio

Lives in: Newport, Ky.

Making a living: Schmitt manages the printmaking lab at the University of Cincinnati and she teaches. “Then I make stuff in my evenings and weekends,” she

said.

Studio: She works in her house's second bedroom. "I can outfit just about any room for crochet," she wrote in an email. "All I need is a cork board on the wall and a shelf for yarns." Her cat Grover bats at the yarn.



"Baylee Schmitt: We settle into corners with the dust and mites," during installation at LaiSun Keane. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

What she makes: Schmitt works from memory. Her previous installation, "306 West Church St.," depicted her childhood kitchen.

When her parents saw it, "my dad was walking through the kitchen and was like, "That vent hood is the wrong shape," she said. "It's really fun to see them walk through and

correct me when I'm wrong, because I'm bound to be."

How she started: "I have always been an artsy kid," the artist said. "I think that had a lot to do with being a twin. Allie is very sporty, very social, very active. I was a little bit more withdrawn, a little bit more shy." Her artistic bent, she said, was "a point of individuality."

How she works: First, she sketches. "When I land on something that feels recognizable, that feels right, then I scale it up," Schmitt said. "I usually pin the drawing to scale onto the wall, and then I crochet to shape, and then I pin the shape up onto the wall and see if it works."

She leaves strings hanging rather than weaving them in. Schmitt started out as a painter, and sees them as callbacks to drips on canvas.



Baylee Schmitt installs a dresser in her crocheted installation at LaiSun Keane. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Advice for artists: Schmitt envisions herself crocheting her entire childhood home. “I could even branch out and go into the town,” she said. “It feels like something that is infinitely scalable.”

She counsels, “it’s important to try different things as an artist. But I think what really changed the way I work was a deep commitment to what I was doing,” Schmitt said. “It’s a relationship. It’s changing, and I’m changing.”

BAYLEE SCHMITT: WE SETTLE INTO CORNERS WITH THE DUST AND MITES

At LaiSun Keane, 460 Harrison Ave, through Feb. 16. www.laisunkeane.com

"America's Next Top Model" plays on the TV in Baylee Schmitt's crocheted recreation of her childhood bedroom. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

[Show comments](#)

©2025 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC