

## Lynne Yamamoto: "Genteel" at Greg Kucera Gallery

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*Grandfather's Shed, Lana'i City, Island of Lana'i*

2008-10

### Lynne Yamamoto

Hand finished, digitally carved marble from 3D scan of hand-made positive

9 1/2" x 10 3/4" x 11 1/4"

Edition of 2

Photo: Lynne Yamamoto Courtesy: Greg Kucera Gallery

Lynne Yamamoto's second Greg Kucera Gallery show, "Genteel," suggests the contextual, conceptual aspect of her earlier work is being supplanted by solid, realistic objects fashioned of porcelain, marble and lace. What could be more traditional?

Precisely cast porcelain facsimiles of mass-produced foodstuffs such as sardine cans and containers of evaporated milk, corned beef, Spam and Vienna Sausages comprise one work, *Provisions, Post-War* (2007-10), all perched on an unpainted wooden shelf. Foods that were available in Hawaii after World War II symbolize mainland America's importation of junk food, but Asian-ized and claimed by Yamamoto through the delicate china medium. They seem like something that Andy Warhol might have done, had he lived longer and thought of a way to combine his love of canned food imagery with his love of antique porcelain. *Grandfather's Shed* (2008-10) is one of two digitally carved marble reproductions of the artist's grandfather's storage shed on the island of Lanai, Hawaii. Meticulously detailed, it might have looked better to show both editions side by side to suggest the bland repetitiousness of vernacular architecture. Here Yamamoto westernizes an immigrant construct through a material associated with European art-historical tradition.

Full of paradox and contradictions, the most potent series is a set of small, medium and large embroidered lace doilies, each with a different insect (in black thread) that was the inadvertent result of more colonial shipments. Crab lice are joined by cockroaches, bedbugs, termites and carpenter ants, all commemorated on 48 cloths with beautiful pierced borders. With her art of clashing, cultural encounters, Yamamoto underscores Hawaii's unique historical evolution.