

Fall 2022

What Happens in the Goldilocks Zone?

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Bard College

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What Happens in the Goldilocks Zone?

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of Arts of Bard College

by
Ava Lee

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
Fall 2022

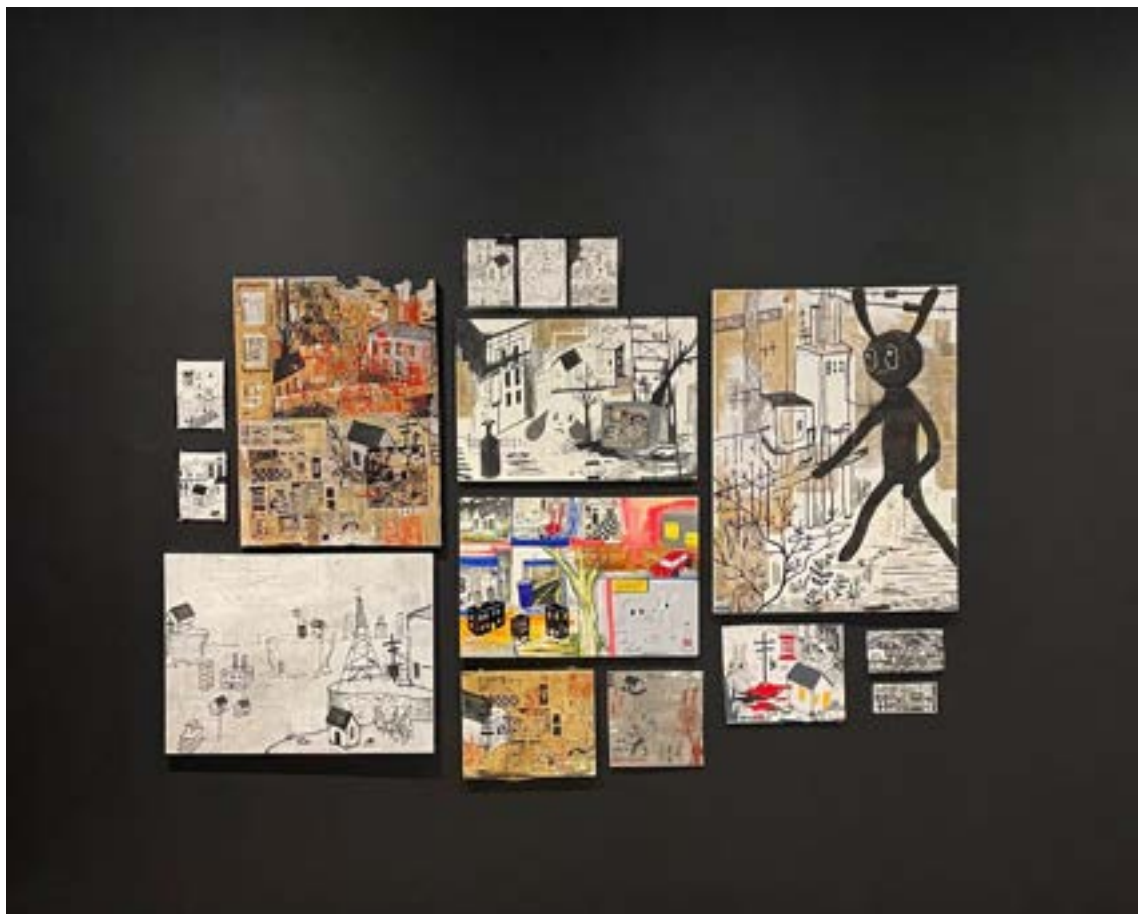
Acknowledgements

Thank you to my mom, dad, sister, and dog for always being the most loving and supportive, always being there to discuss my creative endeavors and making me feel seen and heard—I love you guys. Thank you to Lisa, Marko, and Lauren for all your support and hard work, I deeply appreciate you all. Thank you Dorothy for your continuous generosity and kindness, I would not have made it through the past four and a half years without you. Thank you Bennett, you were beyond helpful and the kindness and support you showed me made this project possible. Thank you to Gem and Daniella for always being there to make me laugh and feel loved. Thank you to Spencer, Elsa and Raif for being true friends and people I deeply love and admire, when I remember Bard I will remember you three most of all. There are too many people who I am thankful for and thinking of in writing this to even mention, so I'll just say— I am eternally grateful to everyone who showed me kindness and helped me through this chapter of my life.

The title of this exhibition, “What Happens in the Goldilocks Zone?” draws on a scientific theory about what conditions are necessary for life to thrive on a planet, based on the numerous conditions that Earth was gifted with that led it to explode with diverse lifeforms. I am intrigued by the idea that humans were born from these “just right” conditions, and the ways in which we see life flourishing now, as well as the ways in which humans have nearly destroyed what could have been a true paradise.

This group of paintings, drawings, prints, collages and ceramic pieces are based on two separate and distinct approaches of addressing the same themes—one of post apocalyptic world building, coming from a rich interior narrative that has ties to both the environment we live in, as well as an imaginative portrait of what could be—and one of looking at this place we inhabit, trying to understand and grapple with the many contradictions it contains. Ultimately, these two approaches are about the same things, although one takes place in a fabricated yet potentially not so distant post apocalyptic future, and one is a portrait of the here and now.

Growing up in a time of deep uncertainty, a time where the climate is in crisis, a time where industry rules, and nothing about the future can be promised, my art attempts to encapsulate this feeling of instability. Contradiction is a key element in my work— the constant pressure of life diminishing rapidly, as well as the overwhelming presence of beauty and ways in which life prospers all around us. It’s about the coexistence of the constructed industrial world and the natural world, and the intersection of hope and sorrow within those two separate, and yet completely intertwined aspects of our existence on Earth. Trees stretch up into the sky, and telephone poles and transmission towers do, too. In my time on this planet, the structures and landscapes I am drawn to lead me down a train of thought that often takes me to the same place in my creative process—how strange, that our world is teeming with both human creation and destruction, that these things are perhaps inseparable, almost indistinguishable from each other.







What happens in the Goldilocks Zone?

An exhibition by Ava Lee

Opening

December 3, 2022 | 5-7 pm

Closing

December 9, 2022 | 5-7 pm

Universal Building Supply
45 Ocallaghan Lane
Red Hook, NY

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE GOLDBLOCKS ZONE?



The Goldilocks Zone is the area around a star where the conditions are just right for life to exist. It's the Goldilocks Zone of the universe.

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