

## MOUNT INQUIRY

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Jeff Nagy: GO BAG**

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Check any wedding registry and you'll find a few melon-sized organic simulations with a market-value less informed by that uprooted earth than the cuteness of these posh dioramas. Enter the "terrarium." Loving the miniature is nothing new. Sit-coms and tomagatchis reduce the vastness of life into maneagable - and masterable - doses. The miniature reduces anxiety by restoring mass of scale to the human, who is otherwise overwhelmed by the enormity of nature and life that exceed her. The terrarium is a world in the palm of your hand, or more likely your night-stand.

Jeff Nagy's exhibition hints at the correlation between an increasing fetish for end-time fantasies and the tokenization of the natural world. Often filled with succulents, popular terraria represent a small world that - with a bit of water and attention - faces little risk of expiration, reducing its keeper's recognition of hers. The human's anxiety over her cosmic insignificance is assuaged by the ability to control a tiny planet (indeed, terraria are typically spherical.) Nagy's variation on this home decoration restores what anxiety it once soothed. Next to every loaded ornament - each of which contains the dirt and flora of a particular geographical region - is a constellation of objects similarly stuffed in glass and suspended. These are Nagy's titular "Go Bags." The contents of these glass orbs is an object deemed "vital" by people hailing from the miniaturized territory - Nagy has drawn from six continents and diverse locations within them. The crowdsourced research for these suspended essentials reveals the valued commodities of each particular culture as well as their local brand of apoca-phobia. For instance, the American northeast features a vile of Lexapro, an iPhone 5 charger, and a toothbrush, amongst other site-specific necessities. Inside each enveloped object is a fantasy of point B, or the destination to which one might flee if this world should somehow expire. Will there be outlets?

- Wanda Looperman

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