

ART IN REVIEW

## ‘The Curse of Bigness’



Queens Museum

An installation by J. Morgan Puett in “The Curse of Bigness,” at the Queens Museum of Art.

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The Queens Museum of Art is undergoing a major expansion, which means that there is no room now for a big exhibition. Undaunted, the museum curator Larissa Harris has squeezed a small but philosophically ambitious show about size and scale into leftover spaces. The apt title, “The Curse of Bigness,” comes from a 1914 essay by the [Supreme Court](#) Justice Louis Brandeis about

the rise of giant monopolies.

Hiroshi Sunairi has constructed a sad, dead elephant out of slender branches and four stout logs. In a music video the charismatic Tara De Long performs a hip-hop song about business while wearing an alarm-clock-size penny around her neck. You can buy a version of the necklace with a miniature penny by Mended Veil Jewelry in the gift shop.

A wall label invites viewers to detect small differences in Karin Campbell’s four seemingly identical paintings of a Christian reliquary. A sweet video by Guy Ben Ner, starring himself and his young son — i.e., big and small — illustrates a teacher’s efforts to educate a feral child. Videos by Survival Research Laboratories document the actions of frighteningly destructive, heavy-duty mechanical inventions.

A sprawling installation by J. Morgan Puett resembles an old garment-making sweatshop. Jessica Rylan has secreted a microscopic sculpture of the Queens Museum

inside a larger model of the building belonging to the museum's famous, panoramic miniature of New York City. Political puppet theaters by Great Small Works are arrayed along the walkway around the panorama.

Designed by the team Dexter Sinister, the catalog, which includes essays by Brandeis and William James, frames the big picture. **KEN JOHNSON**

[Queens Museum of Art](#)

*Flushing Meadows-Corona Park*

*Through Oct. 3*