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DIANA SHPUNGIN

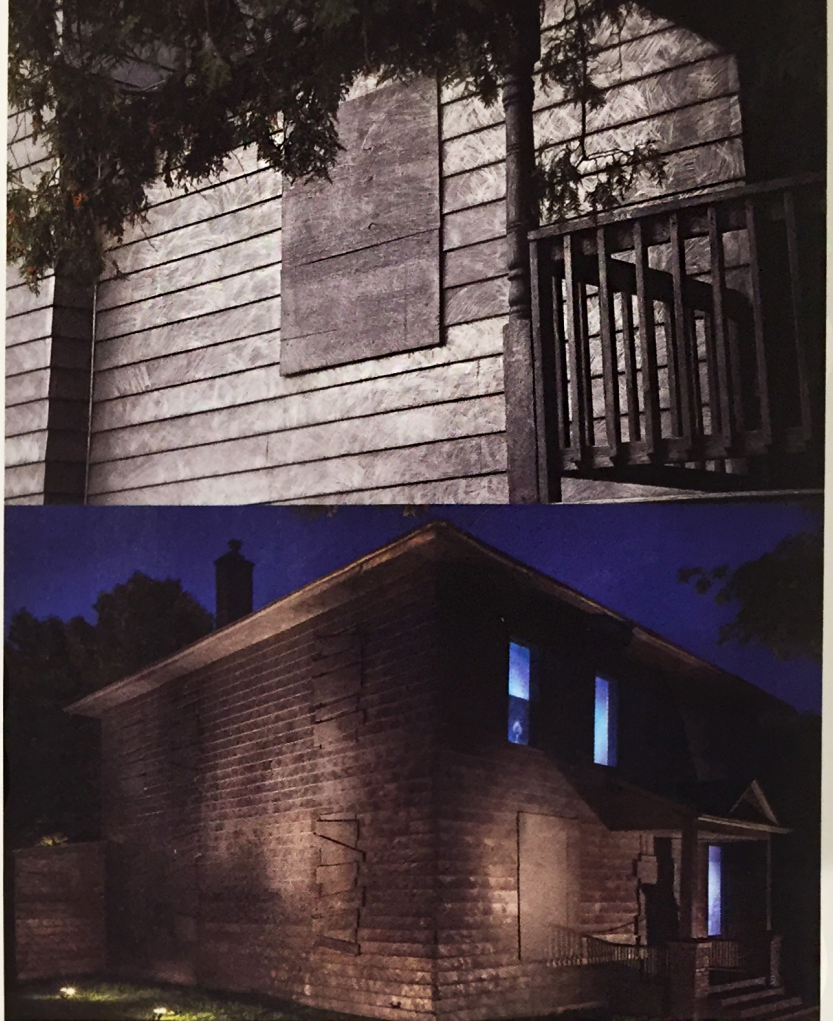
Drawing Of A House (Triptych)

Grand Rapids, MI

Last fall, Brooklyn-based Diana Shpungin launched her largest project to date, an abandoned house covered entirely in graphite drawings. Commissioned by SiTE:LAB, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, and the City of Grand Rapids, Shpungin and more than 100 volunteers, armed with well over a thousand pencils and graphite sticks, took several months to complete the work. “I really wanted all the labor to be visible and each person’s mark to be seen as both their own and in a collective, unified whole,” Shpungin says. “I simply instructed people to crosshatch in a methodical, even-handed way. The result was a lovely, subtle variation of line quality throughout.”

In addition to blanketing the structure in graphite, Shpungin created nine projections of animated drawings to shine through the windows at night. The drawings include everything from people peeking through curtains and blinds to abstractions, to eerie shadows appearing and vanishing in space. “The home’s address is 333 Rumsey Street, so I played off the idea of having three triptychs to reference that,” she notes. “The front is more narrative; the side more dreamy, light, and ethereal; while the back is slightly more dark and ominous.”

Drawing Of A House (Triptych) is not only an aesthetic project, but also an evocation of the structure’s history (it was once a rectory), and it succeeds in creating a feeling of “object empathy.” Shpungin even



Diana Shpungin, *Drawing Of A House (Triptych)*, 2015. House, graphite pencil, and multi-channel, hand-drawn video animation, 2 views of installation.

met with the former pastor, who shared stories about the house and his family’s life there. “I think [the project is] about collective memory,” Shpungin says. “or how we can take a domestic space that has very personal and specific feelings for a very few and transcend that into a broader, tangible thing for anyone to latch on to and interact with.” The work remains on view through the spring. After that, the house will be torn down to make way for a new Habitat for Humanity development.

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