

LA WEEKLY

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An Artist Puts a Dark Spin on “Jack and the Beanstalk”

BY CATHERINE WAGLEY

Sean Shim-Boyle's *Fur* (2016)

This week, popsicles melt in West Adams, staining gallery walls, and an artist mines the Jack and the Beanstalk fairy tale in Hollywood.

Getting away with it

The golden egg in the center of Various Small Fires' outdoor courtyard has the word “thief” engraved on its surface. Artist Sean Shim-Boyle made it to reference to the golden egg that Jack of the fairy tale “Jack and the Beanstalk,” stole from the giant in the clouds. All of Shim-Boyle's show riffs on Jack's story. There's a cow made of wood and felt, and the “Harp That Plays Itself” is a rubber hose plugged into the ceiling that dangles and dances, aided by a compressor. Wood letters, like the kind nursery schools have, spell out “fee fi fo fum” over and over again. The show's mood is lightly rebellious and together the sculptures feel like the trappings of a theme park that's irresistible to children but not actually child-safe. 812 North Highland Ave., Hollywood; through May 21. (310) 426-8040, vsf.la.