



Daisy Youngblood, *Budhi* (2006).
Photo: Courtesy McKee Gallery.

10. Daisy Youngblood at McKee Gallery, through May 30.

Daisy Youngblood produces only a few sculptures each year, so this exhibition of 14 key works, "Daisy Youngblood: Ten Years 2006-2015," represents a significant portion of her output over the past decade. The show is not to be missed. The North Carolina-born artist, who now lives and works in Costa Rica, has a specific, and eccentric, approach to rendering mostly small- and medium-size figures and animals, and her use of materials is consistently unconventional and surprising.

In a number of works, including the most recent piece on view here, *Chandrika* (2014), Youngblood incorporates driftwood, stone, and low-fire clay. This extremely distorted yet convincing figure, suggests a sleeping woman with a rather abject and mournful comportment, as one who has suffered a great deal. The elegance of the shapes and the ultra-sensitive manipulation of the materials, however, ultimately lend the figure a dignified grace. Some of the sculptures have a genuinely emotional pull, such as *Budhi* (2006), a small, low-fire clay sculpture depicting the artist's daughter, who has Down's syndrome. This striking work, with delicately lithesome limbs and torso, recalls an especially refined work of Maya art, or a masterpiece from some other long lost civilization.

David Ebony is contributing editor of Art in America and a longtime contributor to artnet.

Follow artnet News on Facebook.