

Sculptor Keith Edmier experienced in creating intricate, meticulously-crafted sculptural environments

By TOM HALL
November 25, 2015

Keith EDMIER: Edison Impluvium opens at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on Saturday, December 5. The exhibition is a site-specific sculptural environment in which the never-before exhibited death mask of inventor Thomas Edison along with three-dimensional self-portraits and life masks of Edmier's family and a host of celebrity friends are embedded in the walls of a swimming pool reminiscent of the concrete pool that Edison had constructed on the grounds of his winter estate in Fort Myers in 1910.



Sounds ambitious, but if anyone can turn the inside of the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery into the interior of a concrete swimming pool (sans the water, of course), it is Keith Edmier. Just witness *Bremen Towne*, a meticulous full-scale reconstruction of the interior of his childhood home in suburban Illinois, which the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis recently acquired. Edmier “made or revamped almost everything in it, from kitchen appliances, to curtains, to carved wood figure of a hooded monk that stands like a memento mori in the middle of the living room,” wrote art critic Holland Carter for *The New York Times Art & Design* on the opening of a career retrospective of Edmier’s work that was hosted by the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York in 2008. So detailed and accurate is Edmier’s recreation that you’d swear he excised the interior from his parents’ Bremen Towne Estates’ home but, instead, he assembled the “time capsule of domestic kitsch” from scratch, using family photographs and childhood memories as his only cues.

If Edmier can pull off a feat like *Bremen Towne*, then recreating the interior of Thomas Edison’s cement pond should be child’s play. But come see for yourself. *Keith EDMIER: Edison Impluvium* will run through February 6, 2016 at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on the Lee campus of Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). Please see above for gallery hours, and read below for more information about the exhibit, the artist and his work. ■