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Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller: *The Marionette Maker*



By *Jessica Dawson*

Veteran sound artists **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller** suggest the uncertainties of a waking dream in "**The Marionette Maker**," an aural and kinetic installation making its American debut at Luhring Augustine. Commissioned for Spain's Reina Sofia in 2014, the work is an RV trailer — the kind you'd hitch to a Winnebago — with a mysterious inner life. Peer inside and you'll find as spooky centerpiece a lifelike model of a nightgown-clad Cardiff — the artist as sleeping beauty. Around and on top of her, marionettes twirl or dangle: One strums a guitar; elsewhere, the puppet maker of the work's title sketches at a desk. Metaphors for creativity or the mysterious demons of the night? Only the invitation to voyeurism is certain: Vintage theater seats face the action, allowing us to ponder as long as we like.