L.A. Artist Allison Schulnik Talks Cats, Claymation, and Her Created Fictions

“I grew up in a family of artists,” says Allison Schulnik. “My mom was a painter, my aunt was a sculptor and they both worked in galleries.” She moved to Los Angeles after growing up in San Diego, where animation felt “really natural because it’s this mixture of painting and clay, and then I started to combine the two.”

“Animation felt really natural because it’s this mixture of painting and clay,” says Schulnik. “But I was just experimenting with what I could do.” And she did it for a decade before deciding to focus on painting, although she still “doesn’t lose interest” in animation. Her most recent project is that animation, Eager, an epic eight-minute film she made for the music video for Grizzly Bear’s “Two Weeks.”

Schulnik’s work has been called “quietly majestic” and “elegantly haunting,” with “a quiet grace and strength.” She has also gained acclaim for her dry point etchings, and now her claymation films. A photo of Schulnik’s current show, which opened in August at ZieherSmith in New York, is shown here.

To do a ballet one day, but we’ll see. I’d love to do some dance stuff before my body completely fails me. I’d love to do a feature that takes 10 years, so I’ll probably do that eventually. And painting. And I want to do a feature that takes 10 years, so I’ll probably do that eventually. And painting. And I...