**GREAT ROOM** 

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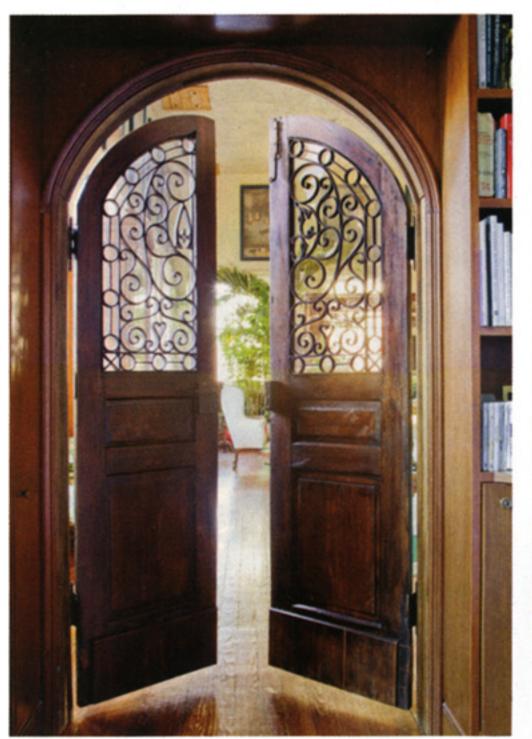
## We're All Mad Here

Down the rabbit hole to artist Meghan Boody's tripped-out Tribeca wonderland. BY WENDY GOODMAN

HE YOUNG GIRL locked in the mosslined cage in Meghan Boody's living room is not, as one parent put it, "a playdate gone awry." She (or rather, it) is a very lifelike silicone sculpture. The white mice nibbling at the girl's prone body, however, are actual living rodents. It's a jarring juxtaposition, all right, and not the sort of tableau one is accustomed to finding inside a loft on West Broadway in Tribeca. But for Boody, an artist whose work will be shown at the Affirmation Arts and Salomon Contemporary galleries this week, the otherworldly and the domestic are often cohabitants. "I see it as a fairy bower," she says of her autobiographically inspired living-room installation, The Mice and Me. "Other people see it as more dark." Raised on the Upper East Side and trained as a photographer in Paris, Boody began renting this apartment-formerly an artist's party-ready live-work space, complete with a Japanese soak tub-in 1994. She now owns it, and with the help of her similarly artistic 9-year-old son Toby, architect David Hotson, and artist-contractor Randy Polumbo, she has transformed it into a seven-room fantasy lair that is equal parts Alice in Wonderland and Being John Malkovich. "I wanted a rambling house with secret closets," she says, sweeping past the wildly eclectic furniture, sloping fifteen-foot ceilings, exposed fir beams, and-at least-two hidden rooms.



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The Study
The wood-and-iron
doors were found
at an antique
store in Mississippi
yet give the room
the feeling of a
Victorian manor.

The Stairwell
The figurines on
the wall are Boody's
own creations,
inspired by the
wives of Henry VIII.
The cold-rolled
steel banister was
made by Polumbo,
as was the
balcony at right.

The Kitchen
Sloping fifteen-foot
ceilings enabled
Boody to create
a duplex with a
Moorish balcony
that complements
the original fir
support beams.
Toby's bedroom is
upstairs.

Toby's Room
The window opens
onto the balcony
and living room.
Boody found the
jeweler's desk, which
she later powdercoated, at Beall and
Bell in Greenport.

Living-Room
Landscape
Boody's digital
composite
photograph is
bordered by her
signature frame
embellishment:
fantasy animals.
The green-andsilver cabinet is by
Nick Dine.



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At the Top of the Stairs ...
To reach this tiny alcove above the foyer,
Boody climbs up a set of stairs hidden behind a door that's been camouflaged in wallpaper from Sonia's Place.

→ ... A Secret Playroom

Boody in her

shrunken sanctuary.

The grass-cloth

wallpaper and bed

fabrics are from

Brunschwig &

Fils. The porcelain

figurines were all

found at flea markets.

