

Unstable Entity

Rebecca Drolen

August 11th – September 30th, 2023

Gallery Reception: September 29th, 6 – 9 PM

Artist Talk: September 29th, 1 – 2 PM

Columbia College Chicago Student Center | 754 S Wabash Ave, 5th floor

Filter Photo is pleased to present *Unstable Entity*, a solo exhibition of work by Rebecca Drolen.

Unstable Entity uses photographs and architectural constructs to explore balancing and tipping points within culturally unstable expectations of female strength, resilience, and bodily performance. The work compares physical bodily forms to ad-hoc assemblages that are tenuously balanced using common building materials. Within this juxtaposition is a meditation on the body as an architectural construct and the unsettled standards of what it means to be a “strong woman.” The collage of forms speculates on the relationship of female strength to intimidation, sexuality, and desire and the individual stamina required to pursue both mental and physical wellness. Female body builders enter the work as a form of archetype or idealized body representing a maximized performance of strength and physicality. The artist’s performances pursue stamina, wavering balance, and the labor associated with managing the collision of roles between being the subject and operator of the photograph. The work is a montage of layered priorities alongside feverish persistence to perform to meet the standards of contemporary femininity, despite its distinct illogics.

Rebecca Drolen (b. 1983) is an artist and educator working in Arkansas. Her photographs are concerned with how individuals visually assemble their identity and the constructed ideals placed on gendered bodily performance. Her work explores the breadth of how photographs can take form in contemporary art as it incorporates built spaces, assemblage, and performance. Drolen’s work has been shown in group and solo exhibitions on a national and international level, within noteworthy venues such as the Huffington Post, Oxford American’s “Eyes on the South,” the Light Factory, the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Springfield Art Museum, The Oklahoma State Museum of Art, the CICA Museum in Gimpo, Korea, and the Theory of Clouds Gallery in Kobe, Japan. Drolen has had work published in various art books, magazines, and blogs and has photographs held in private and institutional collections. Drolen is an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Art and co-Area Head of the Photography program. She considers teaching a core priority within her art practice and is respectfully impacted conceptually and creatively by her students.

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Installation dimensions variable

Prices available upon request

Figure 001: Stabilize, 2023

Archival pigment print on wood panel, 43 inches x 50 inches

Archival pigment print on vinyl, 43 inches x 41 inches

Looped video with wood casing, 8 inches x 5.5 inches x 4 inches

Framed Archival pigment print, 22 inches x 28 inches

Figure 002: Balance, 2021 – 2023

Framed Archival pigment print, 35.5 inches x 42 inches

Archival pigment print on panel, 8 inches x 10 inches

Laser etching on acrylic, 8 inches x 10 inches

Wood plinth, brick

Figure 003: Move, 2023

Framed Archival Pigment Print

22 inches x 28 inches

Figure 004: Reflect, 2023

Framed Archival Pigment Print, 35.5 inches x 42 inches

Laser etching on acrylic, 8 inches x 10 inches

Archival Pigment Print 5 inches x 6 inches

Wood plinth, mirror

Figure 005: Perform, 2021 - 2023

Framed Archival Pigment Print, 35.5 inches x 42 inches

Archival Pigment Print on Vinyl, 6.5 feet x 10 feet

Archival Pigment Print, 5 inches x 6 inches

Wooden support

Figure 006: Droop, 2021

35.5 inches x 42 inches framed print & 24 inches x 24 inches print on panel

Archival Pigment Prints

Figure 007: Appear, 2023

Laser etching on acrylic, 8 inches x 10 inches

Figure 008: Suspend, 2021 – 2023

Framed Archival Pigment Print, 32 inches x 32 inches

Archival Pigment Print on panel, 14 inches x 21 inches

Archival Pigment Print, 5 inches x 6 inches

Installation on the Column

Figure 009: Pause, 2021 – 2023

Archival Pigment Print on Vinyl, 39.5 inches x 42 inches

Framed Archival pigment print, Cinderblocks, 24 inches x 36 inches

Figure 010: Resolute, 2023

Looped video with wood casing, 8 inches x 5.5 inches x 4 inches