

Kindof®

STRONG APPEAL

Kiah Celeste

WINEL

Pending Mobile, (detail)



Kiah Celeste x Kindof Curated by Elisa Carollo

April 7–April 13th, 2025
Base Milano - Cofactory Designtech Milano

On the occasion of Milan Design Week, American artist Kiah Celeste will stage a performance of nomadic objects, repurposed materials and redesigned destinies resulting from her collaboration with Kindof Furniture.

Exploring the tension between the otherness and familiarity of terrestrial and otherworldly atmospheres, the foreboding material presences conceived by the artist force us to confront the timeless friction between humans and the natural environment while encouraging us to reimagine a new creative circle of rebirth and reactivation of the material world. Reliant on recycling and manipulating found objects and materials, Celeste's practice nods to concerns of environmental sustainability: using discarded or secondhand items balanced together through tension, flexibility, and gravity, the artist asserts the cruciality of an alternative balance between natural resources and human actions and interventions in this world.

Moving between innovation, concept, grit, and grace eventually suggests an entangled system of tensions, juxtapositions, and affinities in the daily relationship between the individual and society and with one's position on the planet.

Kindof and Kiah Celeste share this commitment to exploring the use of traditional industrial materials in an alternative, creative way.

Kindof rebar emerges from concrete, giving life to functional design forms crafted for longevity and sustainability within the circular economy of steel. The product is primitive, simple, and mono-material; the frame geometries, guided by an industrial patent, envision using a single uninterrupted rod.

Captivated by the flexibility of the Kindof rebar, we began to envision a unique space destined to evolve into an inclusive environment that integrates biophilic principles and promotes aggregation and human interactions. Through the use of Kindof's functional forms, we provide an engaging and multisensory atmosphere.

Collaborating with an artist like Kiah Celeste fuels this aspiration to rethink how to build, relate and move into the human-made world. Analogous to what Kindof pursues by valorizing a material that is otherwise invisible in its conventional use, the artist's work gives back with significant added value to industrial materials unveiling their imaginative and poetic potential. Kindof Rebar and Kiah Celeste set the tone for an exploration to which everyone is invited, engaging with both senses and heart, becoming an active part of the artwork while embarking into a relevant reflection on our position in the interconnected system of objects that accompany and shape our existence.

Untitled, 2024
Steel, Acrylic Paint, PVC Pipes
42 H x 18 W x 18 D in.
107 H x 46 W x 46 D cm.





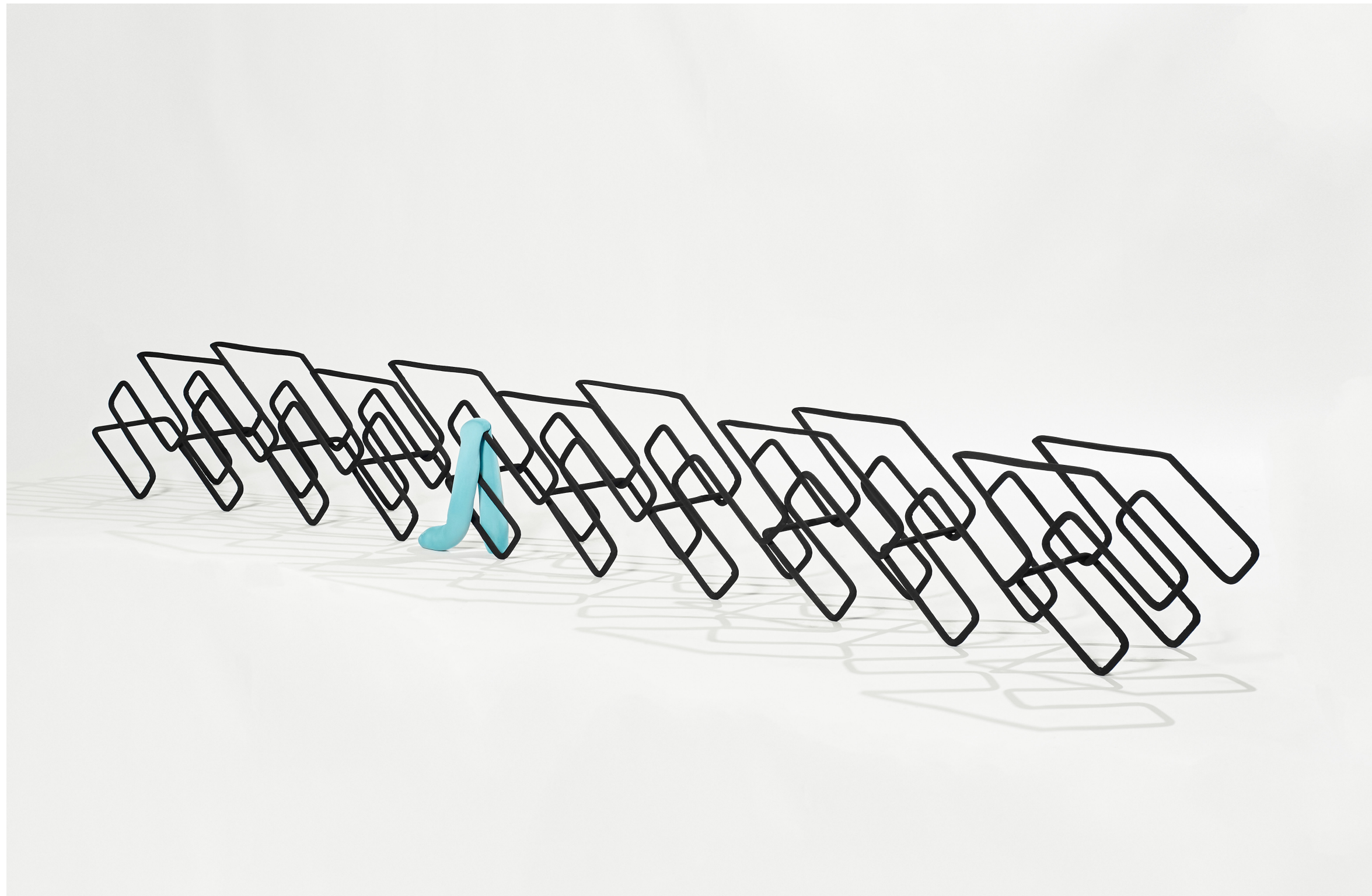
Untitled, (detail)



Rearing, 2024
Found Chairs, Acrylic Paint
42 H x 26 W x 30 D in.
107 H x 66 W x 76 D cm.



Chairing (Detail)



3 Legged Marathon , 2023
Kindof Rebar, Scuba Fabric, Sand
22 H x 16 W x 176 D in.
56 H x 41 W x 447 D cm

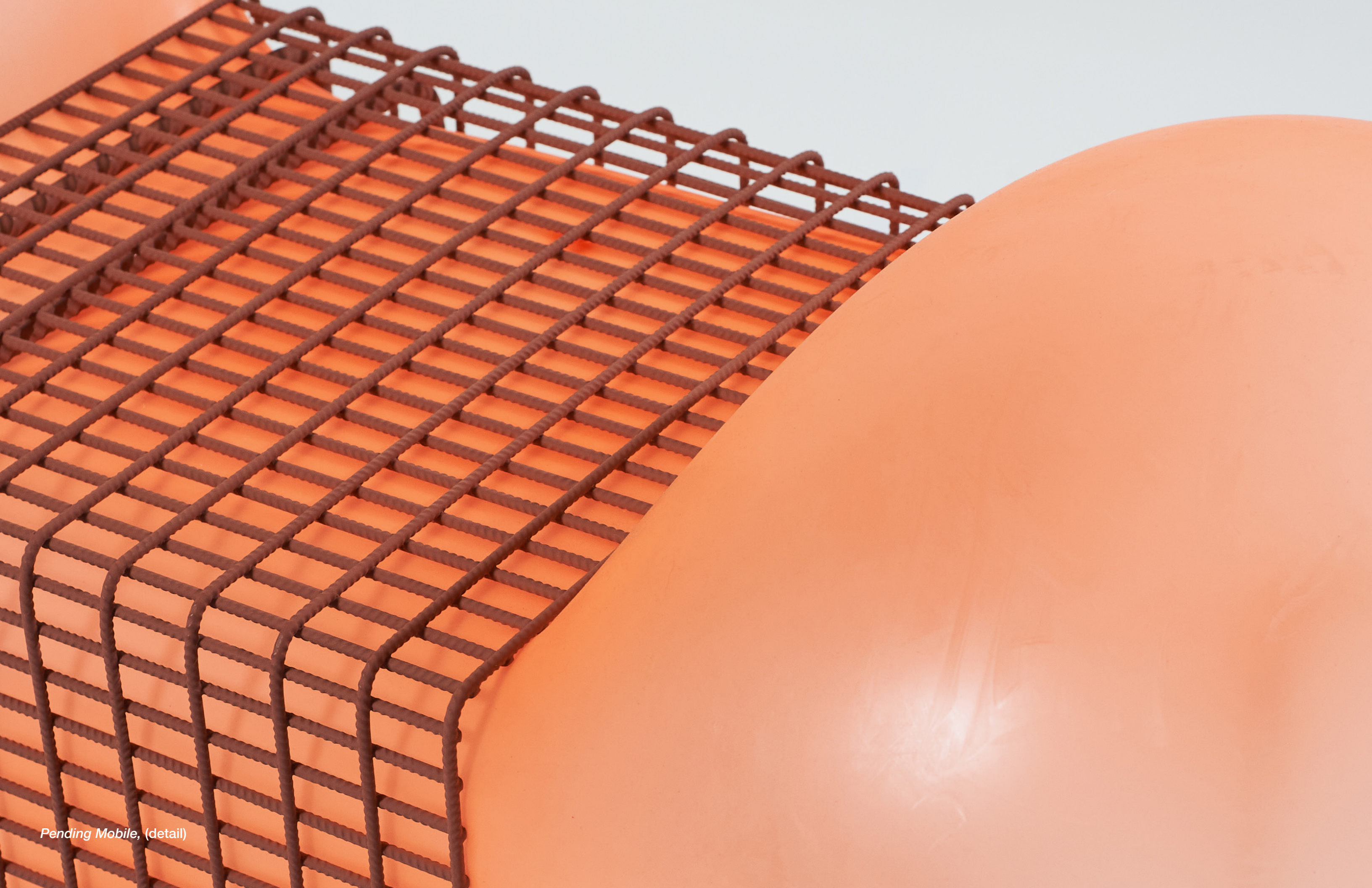
In collaboration with Kindof Furniture
using its rebar model.



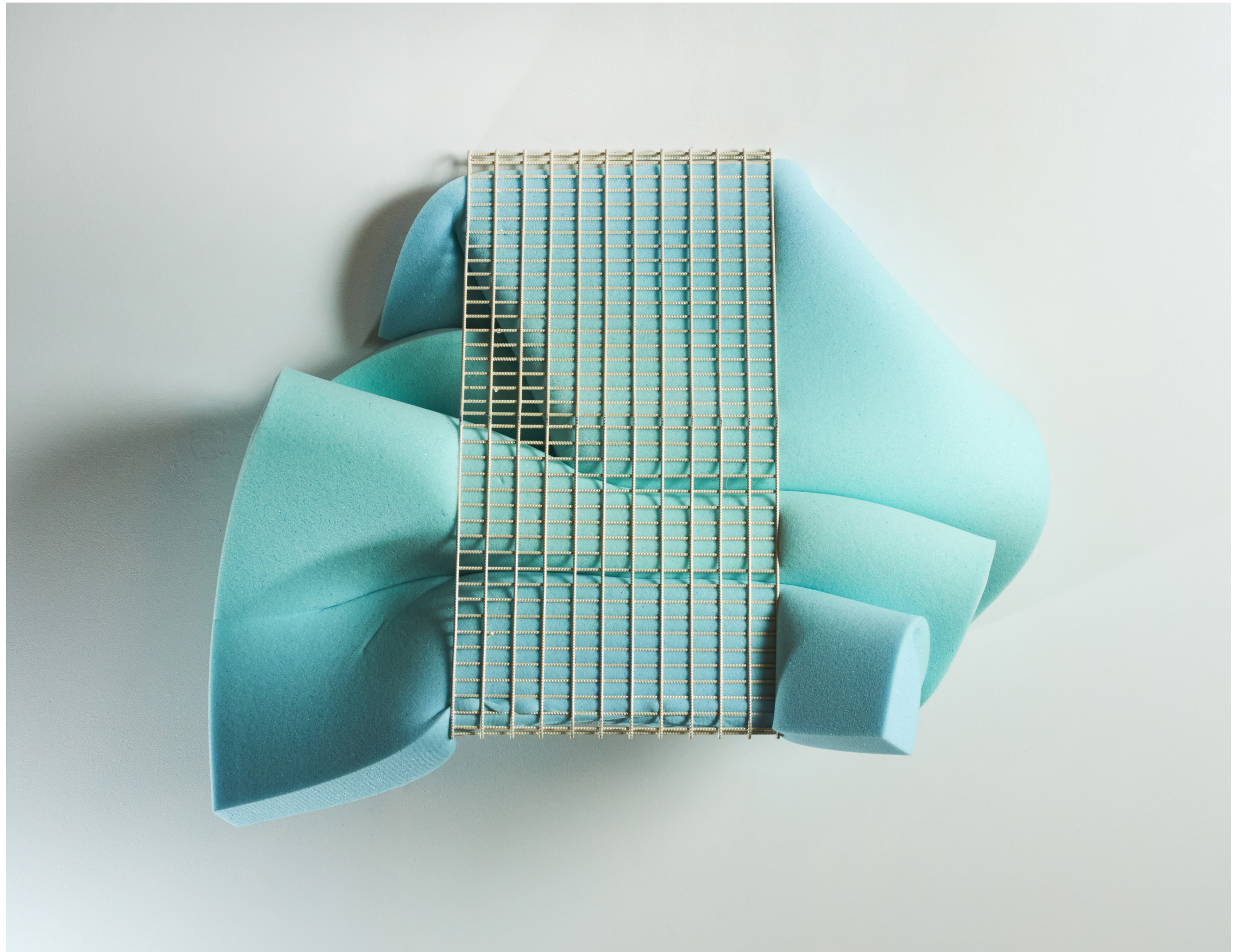
3 Legged Marathon, (detail)



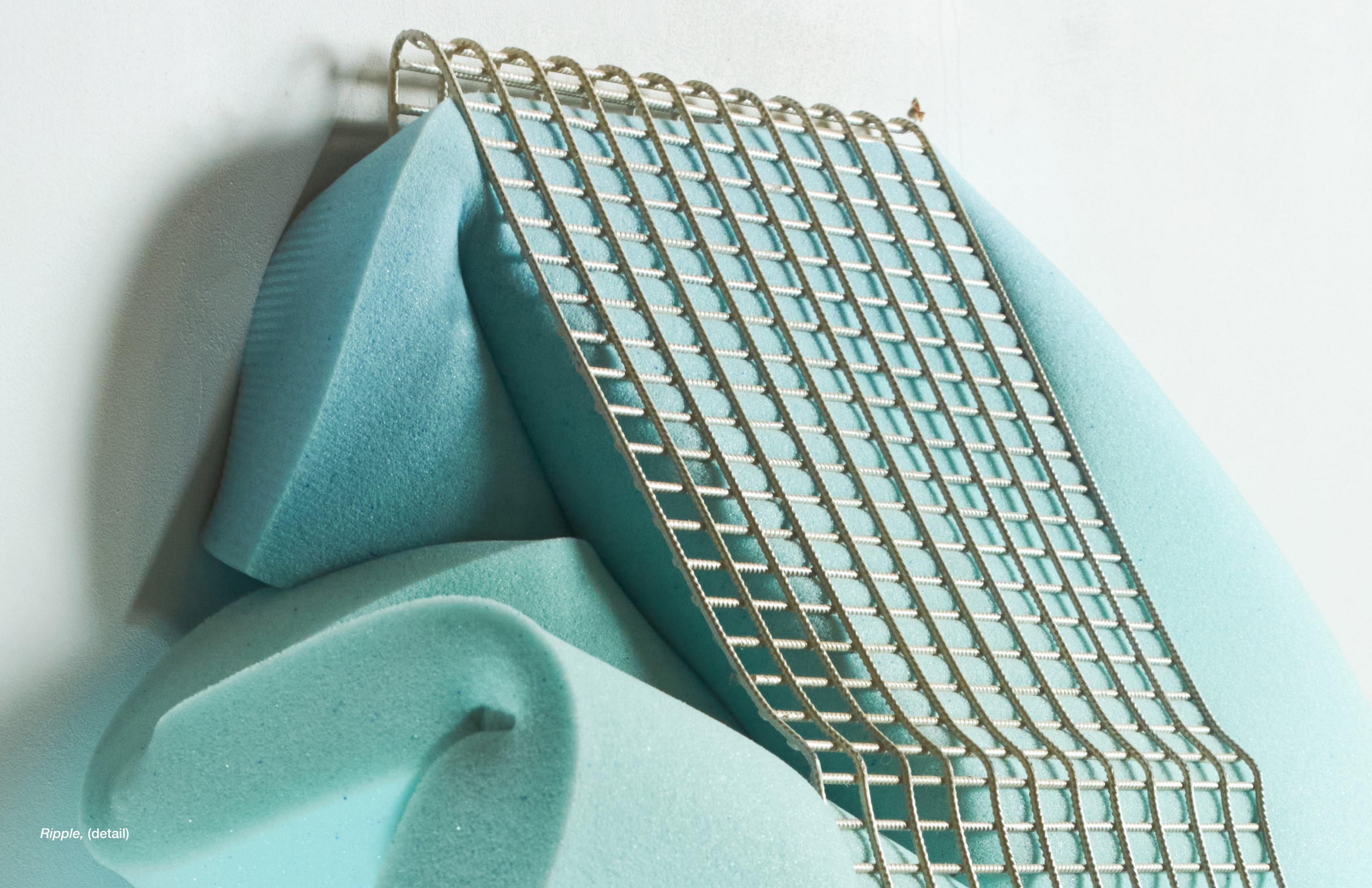
Pending Mobile, 2024
Steel, Acrylic Paint, Exercise Balls
45 H x 72 W x 28 D
117 H x 183 W x 71 D



Pending Mobile, (detail)



Ripple, 2024
Memory Foam, Kindof, and Spray Paint
34 H x 40 W x 21 D in.
86 H x 102 W x 53 D cm.



Ripple, (detail)

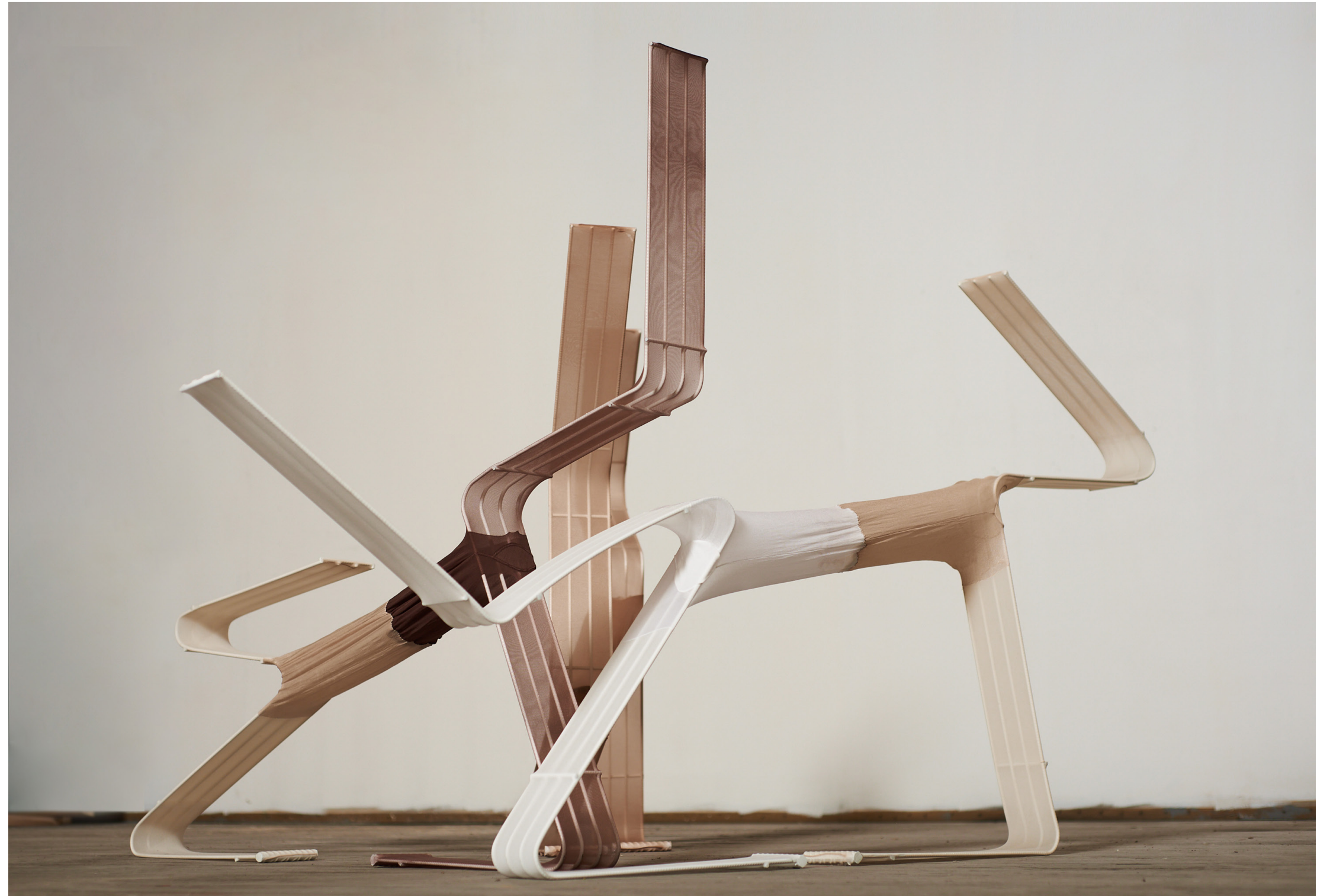


Staring Contest, 2024
Kindof, Pillows, and Spray Paint
25 H x 35 W x 26 D in.
64 H x 89 W x 66 D cm.



Staring Contest, (detail)

Fight, 2024
Kindof and Stretch Fabric
49 H x 56 W x 5 D in.,
43 H x 46 W x 16 D in.,
41 H x 77 W x 12 D in.
Dimensions Variable





Fight, (detail)



Kiah Celeste

b. 1994, Brooklyn, New York

Kiah Celeste (B.1994, Brooklyn, NY) is a multi-dimensional artist whose work has transcended fitting into one category or medium. Upon completing a BFA in Photography in 2016, Kiah moved into three dimensional production. She has completed artist residencies and exhibitions within the US and internationally including Lisbon, Barcelona, NYC, Chicago and Miami. In 2021, Celeste received the inaugural 21C Artadia Award in Louisville, KY.

Her work has been acquired by the Speed Art Museum, KMAC Museum and the UK Art Museum. She has been featured in Hyperallergic, The Wall Street Journal, Burnaway, and ArtForum. Celeste currently prepares for a solo exhibition in NYC and several art fairs in Europe.

Kiah Celeste

CV

1994 Born in Brooklyn, New York

Education:

2016 BFA, SUNY College at Purchase

Solo & Two-Person Exhibitions :

2024 ExpoChicago with Document Space & Swivel Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

2023 NADA Miami with Swivel Gallery, Miami, Florida
Document, What In The World Becomes Me, Lisbon, Portugal
Swivel Gallery, Woolgather, Brooklyn, New York

2022 Document, All the Best, Chicago, Illinois
Swivel Gallery, The Right Side Down, New York, New York

2021 KMAC Museum, Before It Falls Apart, Louisville, Kentucky
Quappi Projects, It Is What is Not Yet Known, Louisville, Kentucky

Group Exhibitions :

2024 Mary M. Torrgler Fine Arts Center , Reflections: Surface And Substance, Newport News, VA
Swivel Gallery, Myriad, New York, New York
Swivel Gallery, Objects In The Mirror, Brooklyn, New York

2023 Speed Art Museum, Rounding the Circle: The Mary and Al Shands Collection, Louisville, Kentucky
KMAC Museum, Search And Rescue, Louisville, Kentucky
Felix Art Fair, Los Angeles, California

2022 Swivel Gallery, The Shape Of Things, Saugerties, New York
The Carnegie, A Thought is a River, Covington, Kentucky
Schick Gallery, 'Humor Me', Saratoga Springs, New York

2021 NADA Miami with Swivel Gallery, Miami, Florida
University of Kentucky Art Museum, Coloring, Lexington, Kentucky
KMAC Museum, Reflect, Reframe, Remake, Louisville, Kentucky
Anne Wright Wilson Fine Arts Gallery, A Howl Is Also a Prayer, Georgetown, Kentucky

2020 Houseguest Gallery, Industry Fossils & Germinating Sunshine, Louisville, Kentucky
Houseguest Gallery, Balance Bath III, Louisville, Kentucky
Josephine Sculpture Park, Rounded Corners, Pointed Curves & Of Few Words, Frankfort, Kentucky
Quappi Projects, A Sort Of River Of Passing Events, Louisville, Kentucky
Kennedy Heights Art Center, Revolutionary: Being American Today, Cincinnati, Ohio

2019 Majlis Pop Up, Shiekh Shack, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Centre D'Arte La Rectoria, Mesh and Flesh, Sant Pere De Vilamajor, Barcelona, Spain

2018 Dada Post, Insolence: The Prerogative Of Youth, Berlin, Germany

Museum Collections :

2022 Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky

Grants:

2021 Artadia 21C Louisville Award Inaugural 10K unrestricted grant recipient

2020 Artist Relief Trust (ART) Elevator Artist Grant
Foundation For Contemporary Arts
FCA Emergency Grant
Louisville Arts Network and Lift Up Lou
Louisville Arts Network Micro-Commission

Press:

2022 Greenberger, Alex, "Kentucky's Speed Art Museum Receives 'Remarkable' 177-Piece Gift
Rich in Works by Today's Top Artists" 10 November
Bickel, Megan. "Refuse, Reused: A Review of Kiah Celeste at Document," NewCity, 9 May
Art Forum Art Guide MUST SEE List, May

2021 Weiss, Natalie. "Review of The Graceful Instability of Kiah Celeste's Art," Hyperallergic, 22 September
Filchak, Ryan. "Review of Kiah Celeste at Quappi Projects, Louisville," Burnaway, 4 March
Kissel, Hunter. "Review of It Is What Is Not Yet Known," Ruckus Journal, 28 February
Starowitz, Sean. "Review of 'It Is What Is Not Yet Known,'" Under Main Newsletter, 27 February
Oberdick, Jessica. "Review of A Howl is Also a Prayer," Ruckus Journal, 26 February
"Art of Gravity, Ep. 07 Kiah Celeste's It Is What Is Not Yet Known, with John Brooks and Mary Clore." Gnadinger, L Autumn, director. Art Of Gravity, episode 7, Ruckus, 2021. 25 February
Weiss, Natalie. "Review of In Kiah Celeste Exhibit, Discarded Materials Find New Life," WFPL, 16 February

2020 Carstens, Ian. "Kiah Celeste: Glass Breakfast Q&A," Ruckus Louisville, 19 August
Bickel, Megan.
"Q&A: Kiah Celeste and Material Agency :: AEQAI," AEQAI RSS, 27 June
Christopher Carter, "Refusals and Offerings: Revolutionary Identity at the Kennedy Heights Art Center" :: AEQAI, 15 February

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