

ESTER PARTEGÀS

**STEADY**

at BALLROOM MARFA

with Michelle Lopez

Curated by Daisy Nam

April 17 - September 8, 2024

**Ballroom Marfa** is pleased to present a new exhibition, *STEADY* on view beginning April 4, 2024 with opening celebrations on Saturday, April 20 from 5–8pm. The exhibition brings sculptures by Michelle Lopez and Ester Partegàs together for the first time.

The word "steady" implies a continuous state of becoming balanced, developed, and supported. The act of steadying requires a physical, structural, and conceptual interdependence. In this two-person exhibition, Lopez and Partegàs's precarious, playful, and powerful works harness physical and material components — even using the ground below and the air above. Instead of separation and assertion, there is a counterbalance.

Perhaps what you see is not what you see, disrupting the popular principle of Minimalism. With the works on view, there are cues for us to look within – as seen in Lopez's "hyper-rope" sculptures – and behind or far underneath into the subconscious, as seen in Partegàs's tunnels. How we understand the world around us cannot always be seen; sexuality, gender, and race, for example, are embodied. Forms of violence are not always visible, as we've come to know in patriarchal, supremacist, technological systems that have caused harm.

The works in *STEADY* make us question how the world is built the way it is, and why. The exhibited works offer a broader reflection on the balance of power through form, as it extends into the world at large. How we think about spatiality and materiality, is also how we know how to inhabit, hold, share, and gather in space.

*STEADY* is curated by Daisy Nam and organized by Sarah Melendez.

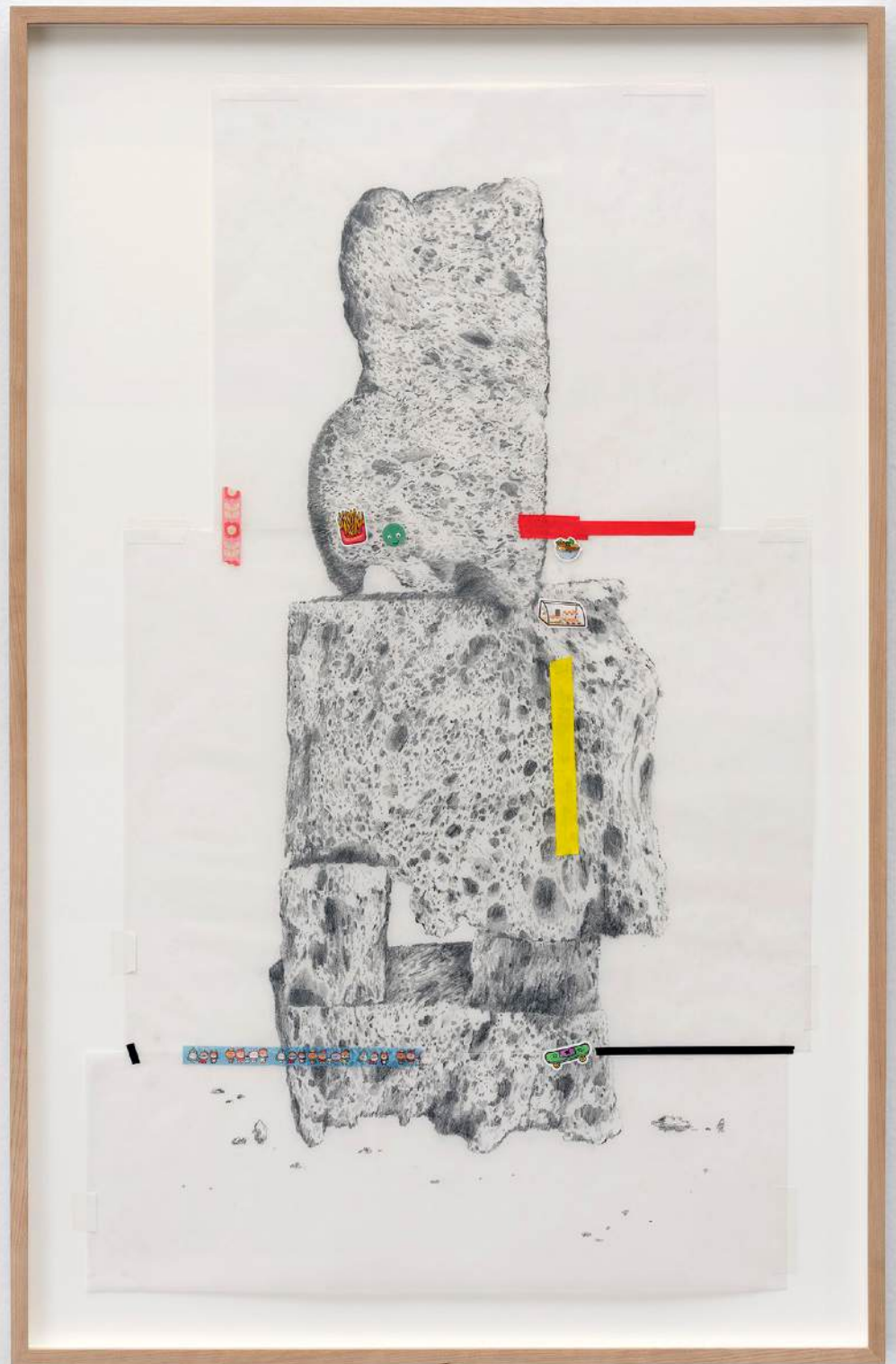
The exhibition will travel to the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, January 21 - April 13, 2025



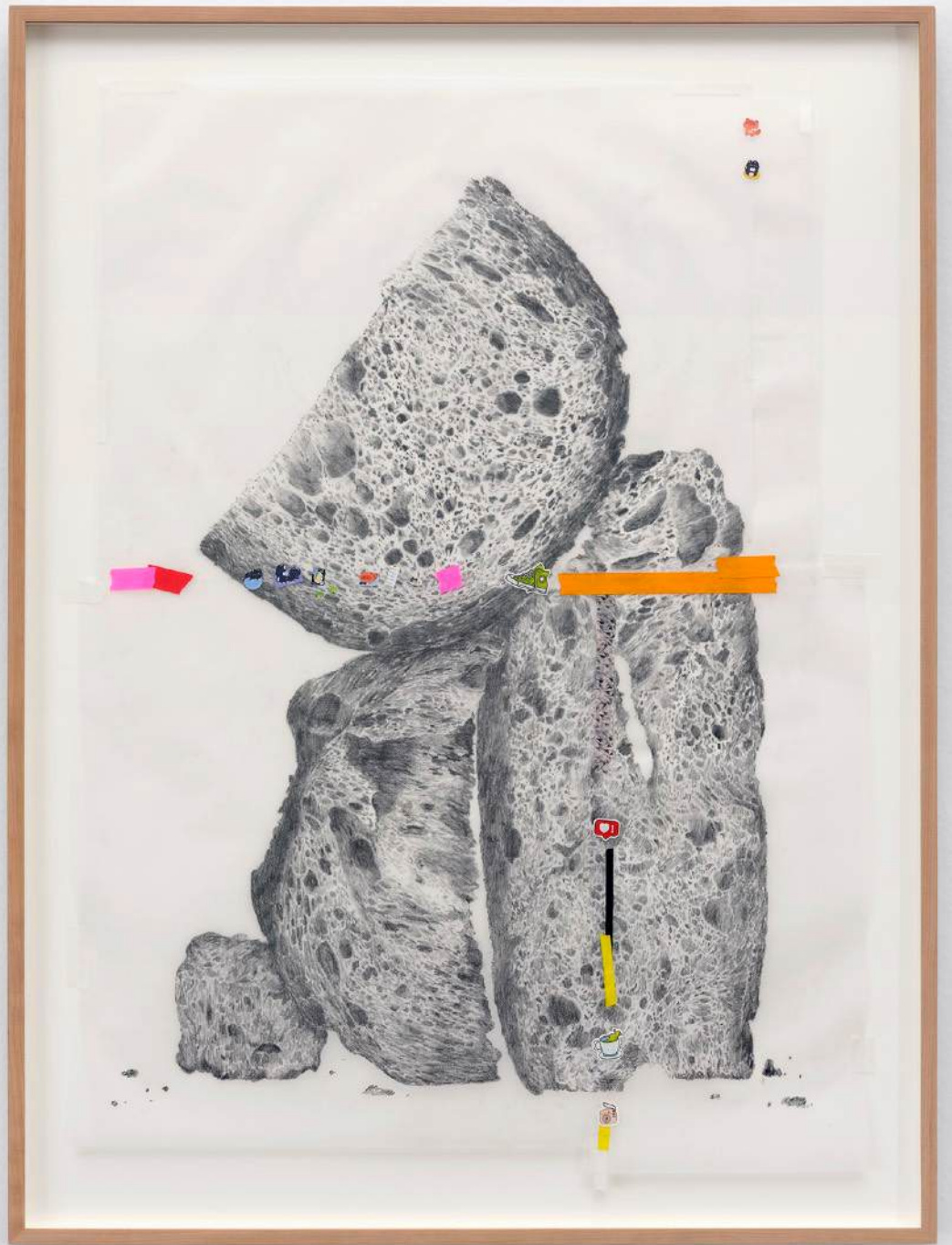


*Host, 2024*  
FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, fabric, bricks, chair  
72 x 20 x 32 in

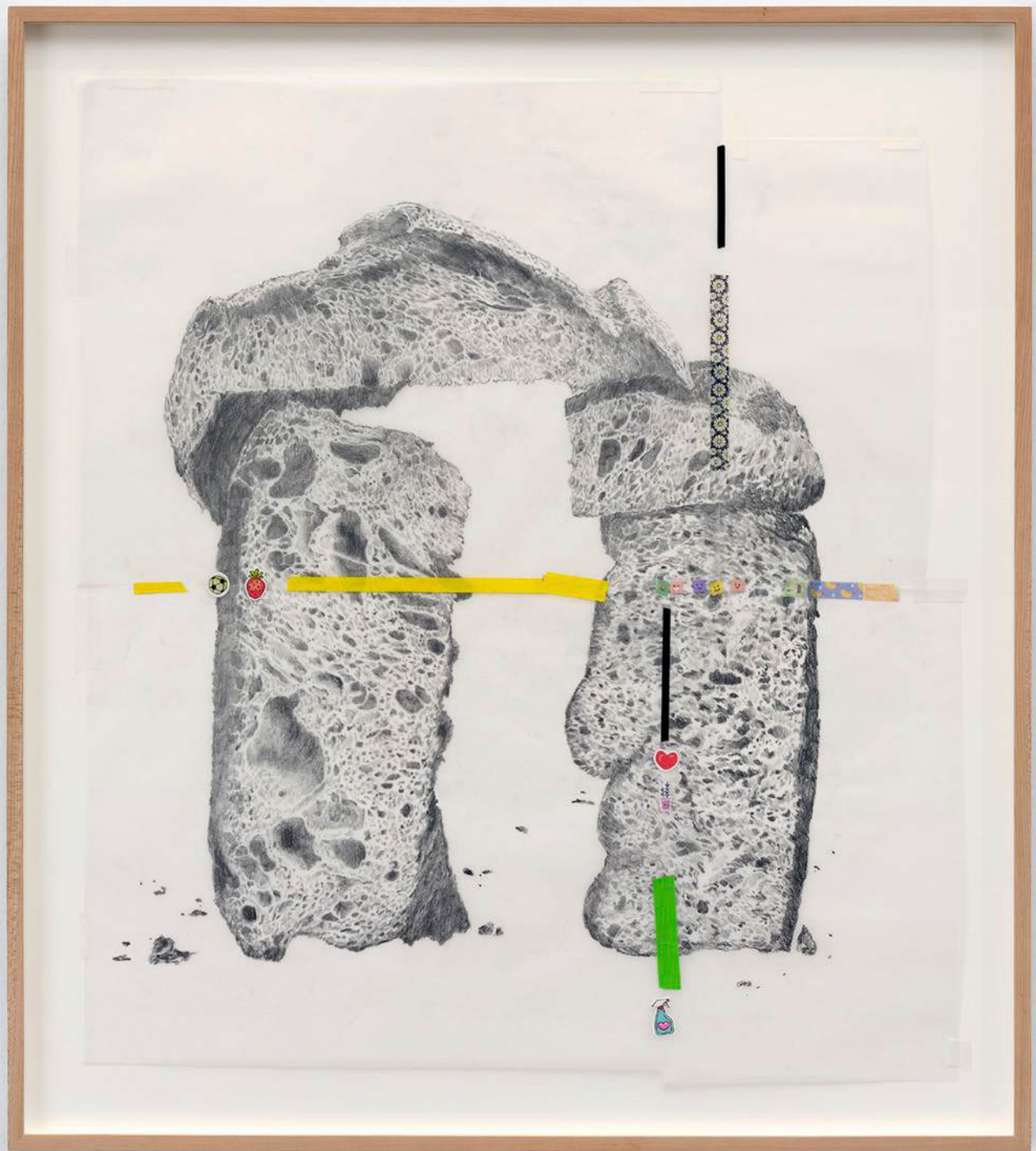
*knead, penetrate, let go (french fries)*, 2024  
Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
42 7/16 x 27 9/16 x 1 3/4in - Framed



*knead, penetrate, let go (green sneaker)*, 2024  
Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
41 3/8 x 30 7/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

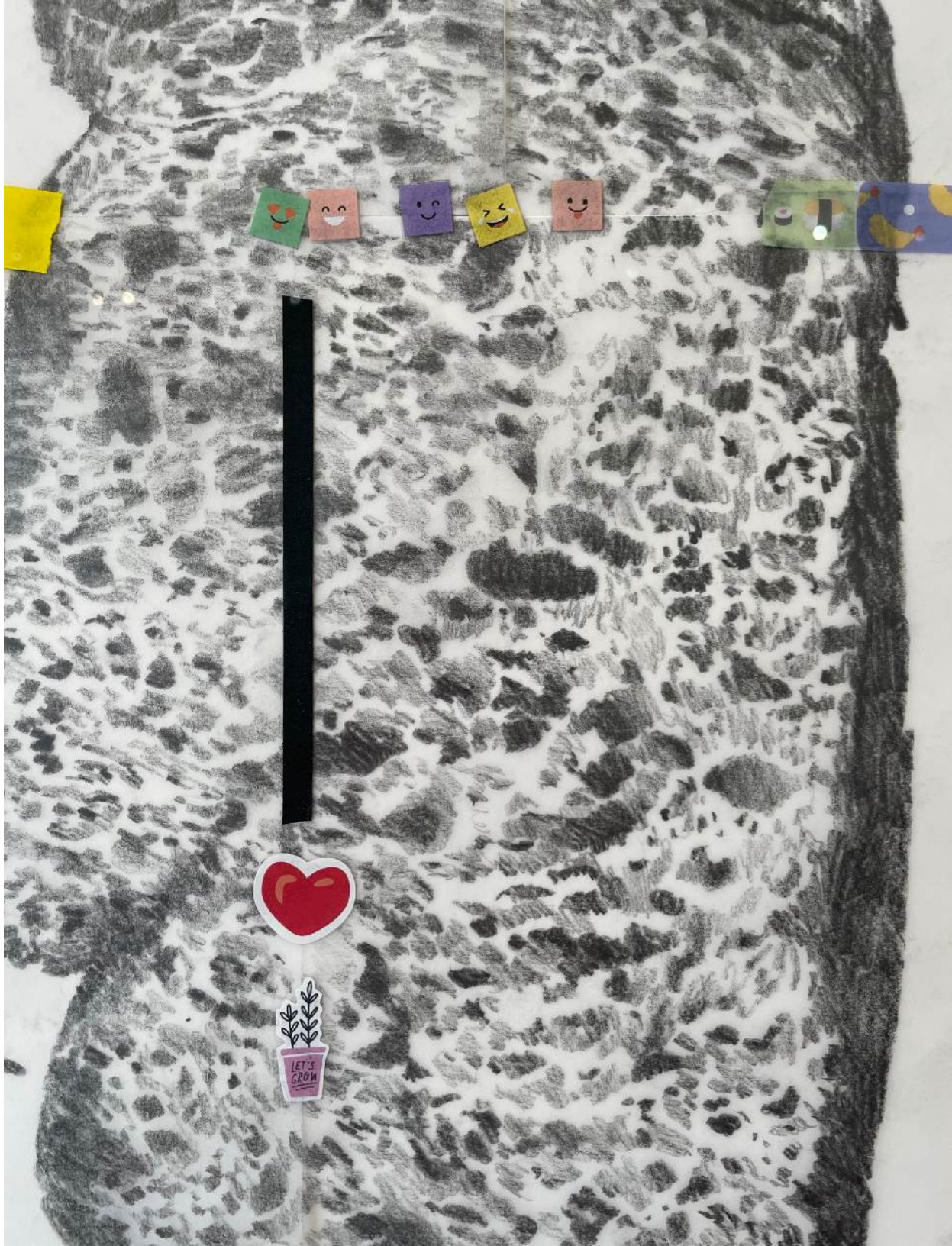






*knead, penetrate, let go (strawberry soccer ball)*, 2024  
Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
38 1/16 x 34 1/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed









*Twilight (laundry baskets), 2024*  
FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, brick,  
fabric, tiles, plywood, polyurethane resin  
90 x 30 x 56 in







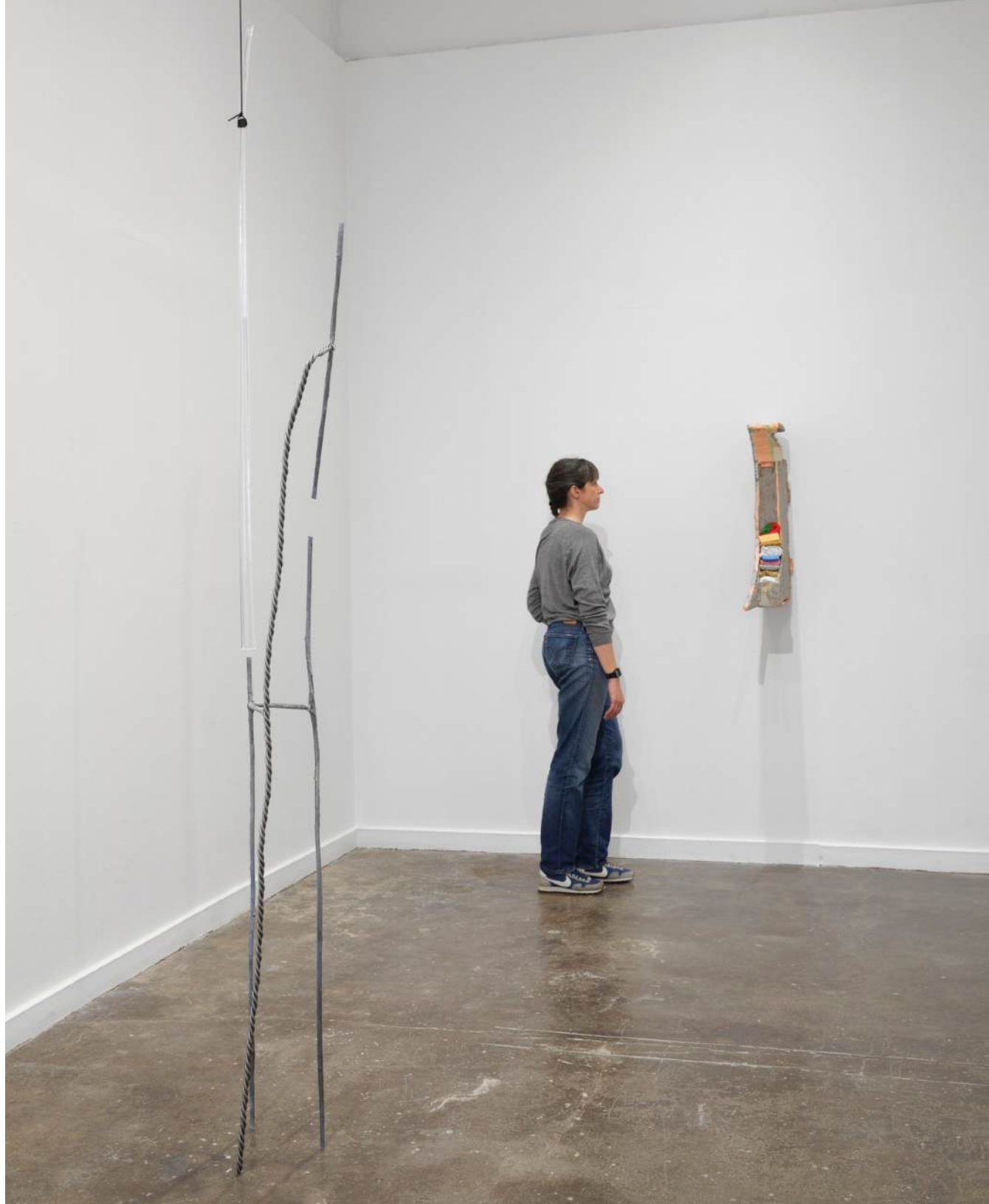








Michelle Lopez *Ropes End 2*, 2024;  
Ester Partegàs *Half*, 2018



*Half*, 2024  
FastMaché, pigments, cardboard,  
fabric, cleaning sponges and wipes  
24 x 5 x 29 in



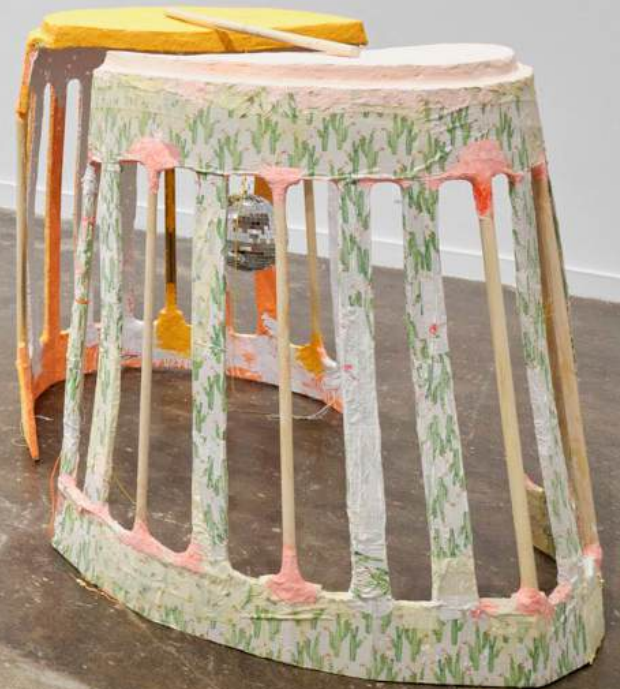




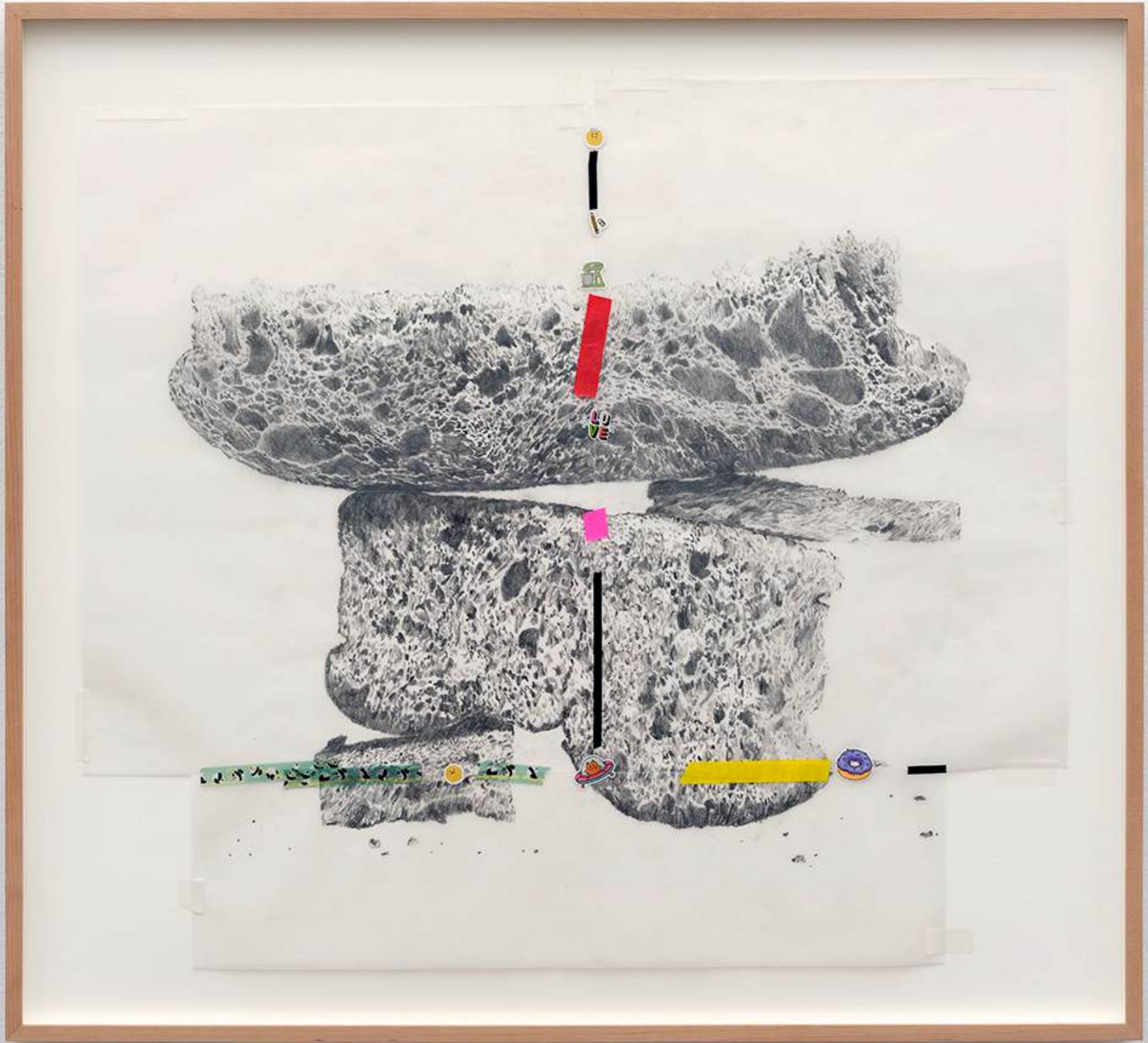




*Two Moons (laundry baskets)*, 2024  
FastMaché, pigments, cardboard,  
fabric, wood, disco ball  
48 x 44 x 64 in











*Knots (laundry baskets)*, 2024  
FastMaché, pigments, cardboard,  
fabric, cast polyurethane resin, rope,  
yarn, sticks, steel rebars  
86 x 40 x 54 n





**Ester Partegàs** (La Garriga, Barcelona, 1972) dismembers, recombines and reuses low cost materials in her hand-built sculptures that focus attention on the systems of value with which we live, while also drawing closely on her personal history, experiences, and effects of disjunction and dislocation.

Partegàs has shown extensively, nationally and internationally. Most recent shows include TEA Tenerife (2023), Palazzo Delle Esposizione, Rome (2023) NoguerasBlanchard, Madrid (2022 solo); Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona (2021); Essex Flowers (2021); Pure Joy, Marfa TX (2020, solo); Conde Duque, Madrid (2020); The Drawing Center, NY (2019); the Museum of the City of NY (2019); Transborder Biennial / Bienal Transfronteriza, El Paso Museum of Art + Museo de Arte Ciudad Juárez (2018). Other shows include MACBA Barcelona; Sculpture Center, NY; Artist's Space, NY; Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; Public Art Fund, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria; Whitechapel Gallery, London; MACRO Museum/Depart Foundation, Rome; and the Moscow, Busan and Athens Biennials among others.

She has received the 2022-2023 Rome Prize for Visual Arts at the American Academy in Rome; a 2014 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship, and a 2004 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant (2004), among others. She has been artist-in-residence at the Chinati Foundation, MacDowell and Skowhegan, among others. She has been faculty at the Yale School of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, SUNY Purchase and since 2016 teaches at Parsons School of Design. Based in New York City, she is a part-time resident of Marfa TX and Barcelona.

[www.esterpartegas.com](http://www.esterpartegas.com)

## LIST OF WORKS (Ester Partegàs)

### Sculptures

*Host*, 2024

FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, fabric,  
bricks, chair  
72 x 20 x 32 in

*Twilight (laundry baskets)*, 2024

FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, brick,  
fabric, tiles, plywood, polyurethane resin  
90 x 30 x 56 in

*Half*, 2024

FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, fabric,  
cleaning sponges and wipes  
24 x 5 x 29 in

*Two Moons (laundry baskets)*, 2024

FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, fabric,  
wood, disco ball  
48 x 64 x 44 in

*Knots (laundry baskets)*, 2024

FastMaché, pigments, cardboard, fabric,  
cast polyurethane resin, rope, yarn, sticks,  
steel rebars  
86 x 54 x 40 in

### Drawings

*knead, penetrate, let go (strawberry soccer ball)*, 2024

Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
38 1/16 x 34 1/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

*knead, penetrate, let go (green sneaker)*, 2024

Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
41 3/8 x 30 7/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

*knead, penetrate, let go (French fries)*, 2024

Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
42 7/16 x 27 9/16 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

*knead, penetrate, let go (lightning bolt pretzel)*, 2024

Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
40 1/8 x 29 3/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

*knead, penetrate, let go (cat spaceship donut)*, 2024

Graphite on vellum, stickers, tape  
32 3/4 x 35 7/8 x 1 3/4 in - Framed

All images courtesy of Ester Partegàs

Photography by Heather Rasmussen