

RUANN COLEMAN

Certain Lengths

27 . 05 . 17

01 . 07 . 17



smac

Ruann Coleman

Certain Lengths

27 . 05 . 17
01 . 07 . 17

Here are some words that come to my mind when thinking of Ruann Coleman's body of work, an artist for whom I have great respect: Timeless, balanced, minimal, intelligent, beautiful, scaled, sensitive, bold, personal, generic, true, funny, deep, elegant, thoughtful, physical, mental.

-Danae Stratou

Ruann Coleman's exhibition *Certain Lengths* we navigate through precariously balanced, tilted, leaning and firmly connected objects and forms. These sculptures and their accompanying titles evoke a sense of fragility and play as they connect with both the surrounding architecture and viewer. Relationships are evoked out of entangled materials. These relationships are geological and speak of time, matter, age and sediment. They are disposable and speak of waste, improvisation and haste. They are plastic and speak of composite chemicals, expanding foam, industrial intrusion and infrastructure. They are found objects, old and re-framed.

Ruann RE-collects and in doing so RE-members. He uses materials to re-member each piece, collecting each object to re-collect, translate and reorient these material and objects into a new vocabulary. In doing so, the construction of each sculpture involves a certain deconstruction of the materials. In this way their behavior and function are subverted and appropriated. But the works can also be light hearted, playful and precarious as in the bent steel balanced pieces. A wooden elastic band with steel rod is quiet and reclusive and yet also flashy and highly sexual. These pieces speak of entanglements, embraces and relationships of form and matter. Foam which has been cast in bronze assumes the role of a wedge or a strut keeping the rock upright. Materials 'behave' in one way, but their make up is transformed and altered. In each of the works there is a visual play of what is implied and an altering of what we see and what we assume.

Length, reach and weight inform the poetry of the works, questioning the inherent value systems of measurement and scale. *The Distance Between Us* suggests the impossibility of true measurement. The interdependence of each measuring system and an anthropomorphic articulation of two measuring tapes face each other in a symbiotic and effortless embrace. Similarly, *Certain Lengths* and *Ode* nod back to art history as materials take on a casual and playful dance. In the book *Abstract Bodies* critic David Getsy recasts conversations around abstraction and figuration to ask questions of how gender and sexuality can be investigated and articulated through abstract sculptural objects. In dialogue with Jennifer Doyle he explores notions of what they term "Queer Formalisms", where the subversion and appropriation of materials and the abstraction of form can lead to conversations about the ambiguities of gender specific bodies and relationships. This is discussed specifically in the work of artists such as Scott Burton, Math Bass and Jonah Groenboer who, for Getsy, are "...envisioning new ways to inhabit the body or to give an account of the self." This notion is deeply resonant in Ruann's *Certain Lengths*. As he uses his body to create the work Ruann balances, frames and reconstructs the relationships between material and form to embrace poetic reconfigurations of matter. In doing so he questions binaries, hierarchies, assumptions of form, and in turn our relationship to these forms.

At the heart of Ruann's work is a journey, a walk, an awareness of space and stillness, of how objects exist in these spaces and held in place by gravity. *Certain Lengths* speaks to an ongoing journey of seeing, noticing and imagining.

Ruann Coleman
Certain Lengths
Installation View

smac



RUANN COLEMAN
Certain Lengths

Black & white | Photography
Kern & Kern
Kern & Kern

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1st Floor, De Wet Centre
Church Street
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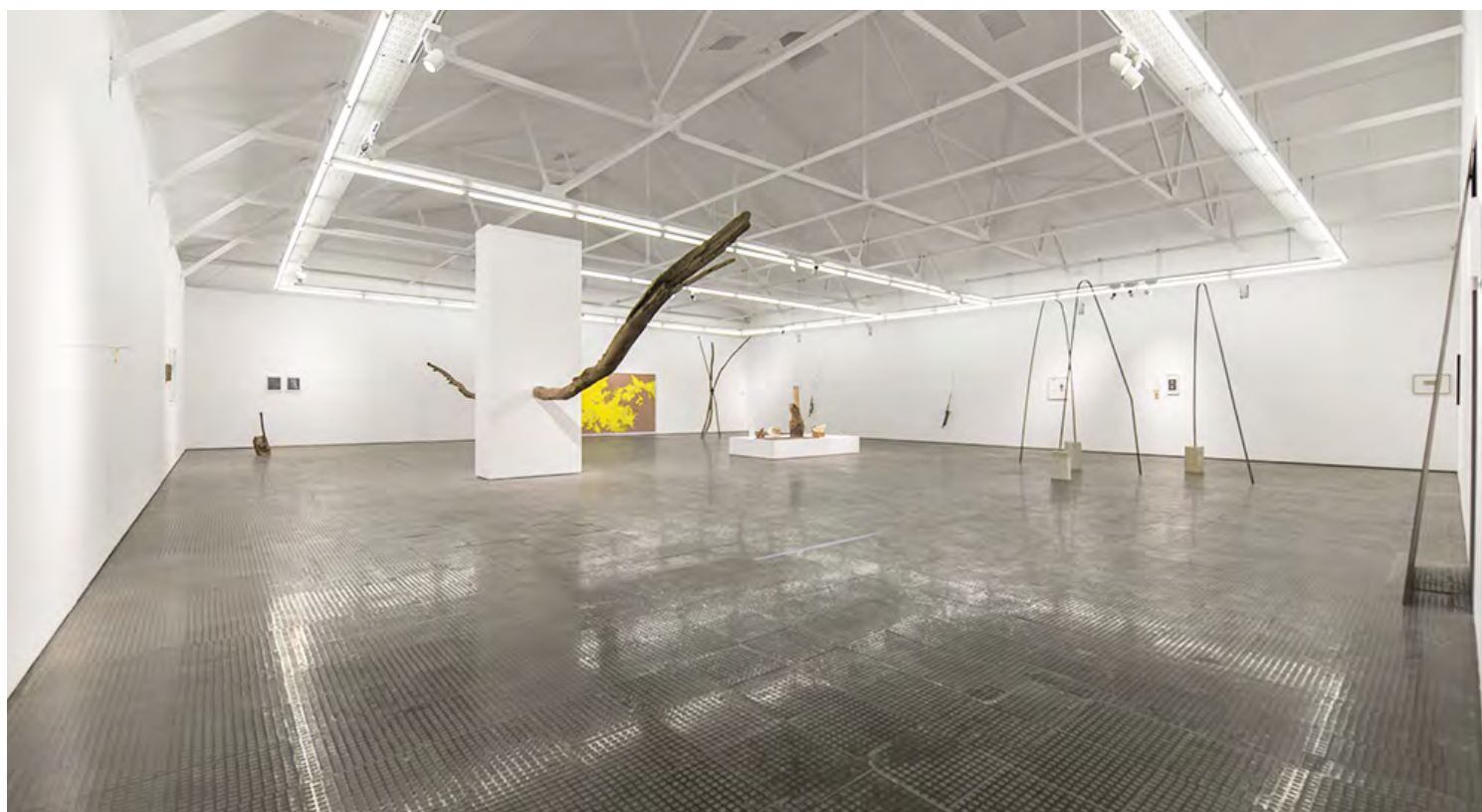
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Ruann Coleman
Certain Lengths
Installation View

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Ruann Coleman

f(x)

2017

Oil on Board

184 x 276 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Faktura

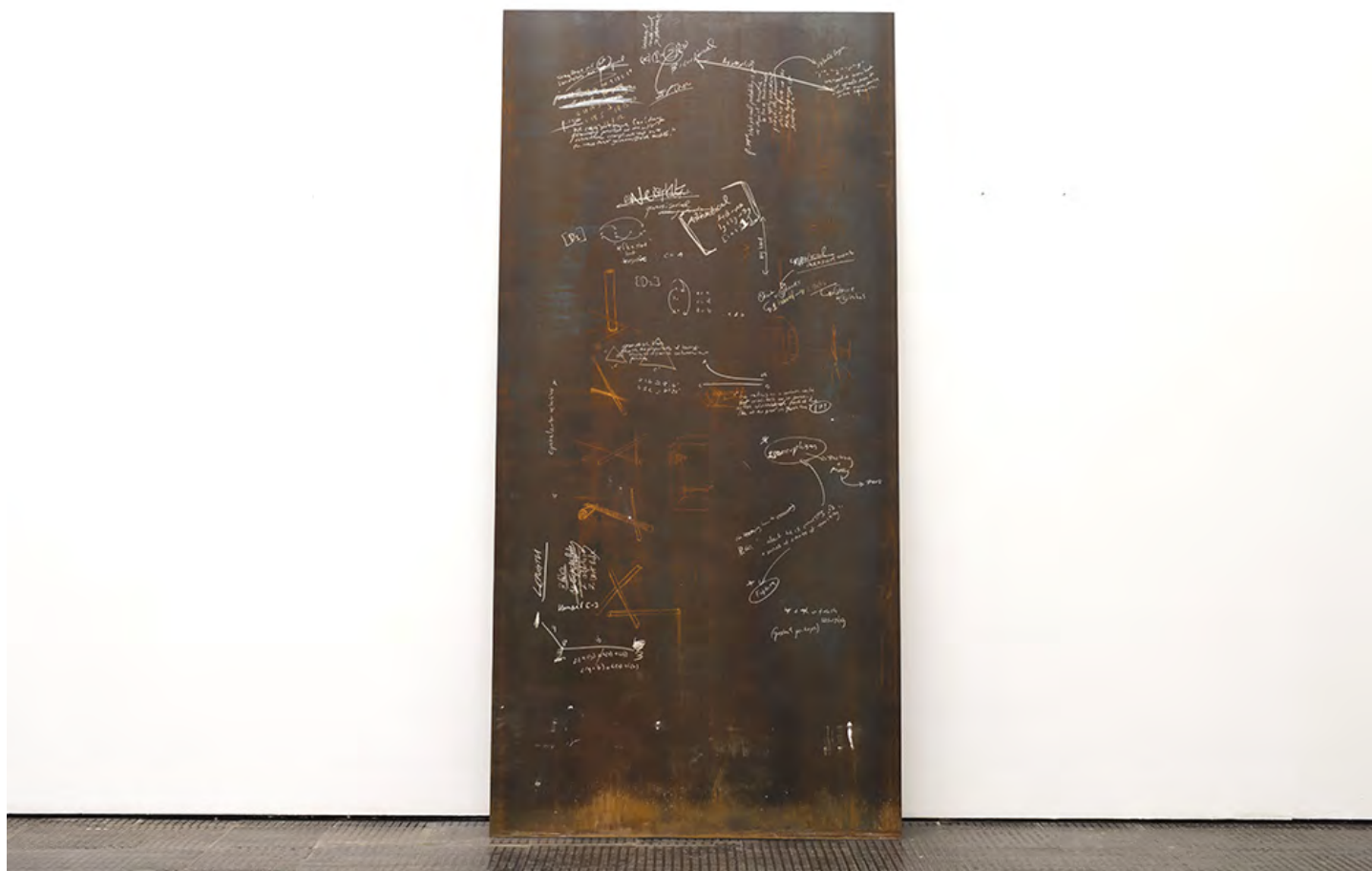
2017

Oxidised Steel

247 x 121 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Wound

2017

Plaster of Paris, Marble Hydrate, Strap, Found Stone and Branches

184 x 53 x 47 cm

Unique

smac



RUANN COLEMAN
Certain Lengths

smac gallery | Johannesburg
#ruanncoleman
#certainlengths

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Ruann Coleman
Autocorrect
2017
Bronze and Rock
67 x 36 cm
Unique

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Ruann Coleman
Misobservation (cm)
2017
Measuring Tapes
27 x 23 cm
Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Certain Lengths

2017

Wild Pear, Satern, Kiaat, Zebrano, Walnut Wood

46.5 x 34 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Brace

2017

Cast Concrete Branch and Rock with Strap

84 x 20 x 13 cm

Unique

smac



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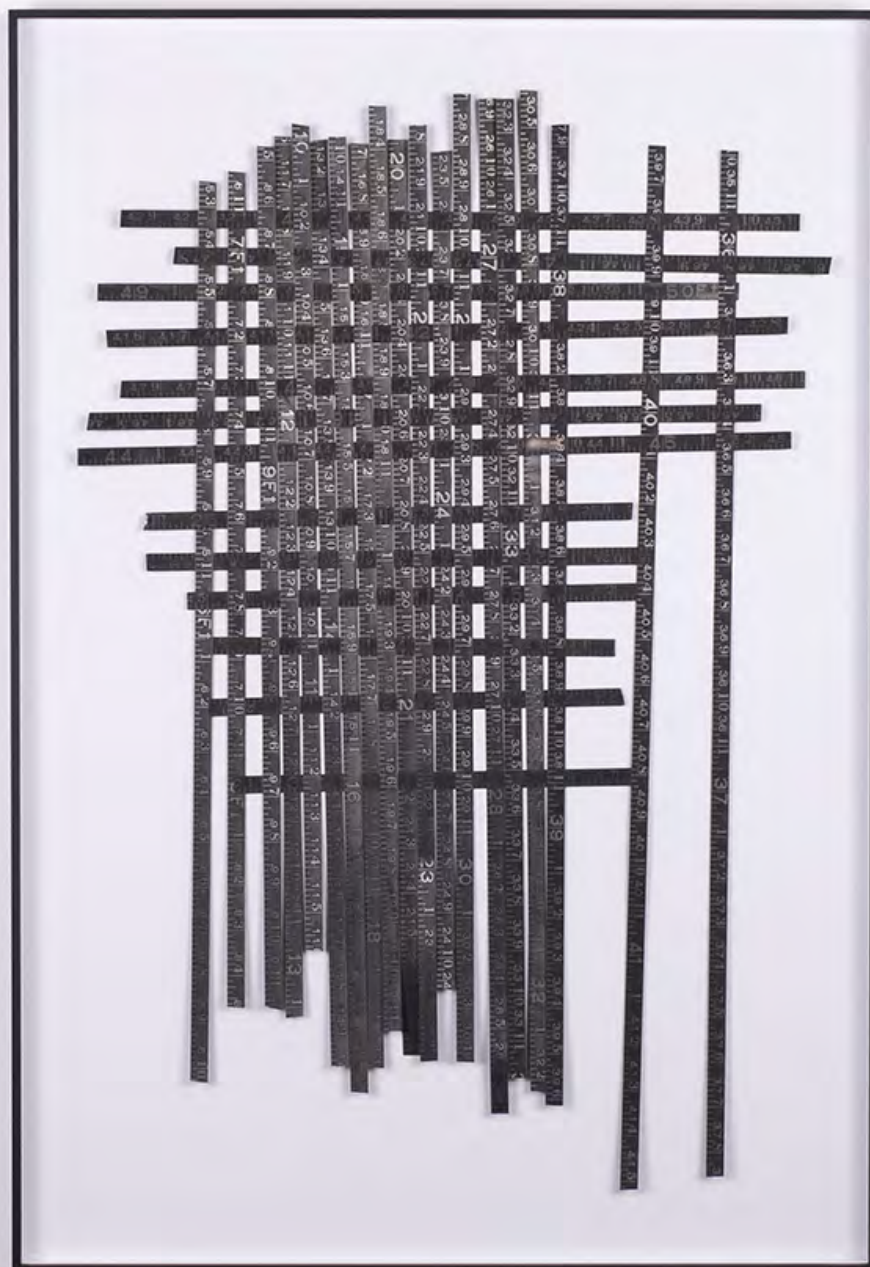
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Ruann Coleman
Misobservation (in)
 2017
 Measuring Tapes
 71 x 49 cm
 Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Stretch

2017

Carved Rubber Wood and Steel

12 x 3 x 26 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Modern Player

2017

Oil on Paper

26 x 29.5 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Drawing 21

2017

Leather, Strap and Found Twig

40 x 22.5 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Chafe I

2017

Sandpaper Drawing

27,5 x 22 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Chafe II

2017

Sandpaper Drawing

27,5 x 22 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Chafe IV

2017

Sandpaper Drawing

27,5 x 22 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Chafe V

2017

Sandpaper Drawing

27,5 x 22 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Study IV (Weld)

2017

Iron Wood and Found Twig

38 x 20 cm

Unique

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Self Portrait

2017

Measuring tape

6 x 5 cm

Unique

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Touching

2017

Steel

200 x 30 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

The Distance Between Us

2017

Connected Measuring Tapes

7 x 38 x 3 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Study V

2017

Polyurethane and Wood

27 x 28 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Auto Correct Study

2017

Polyurethane and Rock

20 x 33 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Study VIII (Reduced to 30 mm)

2017

Radaui Wood

23 x 20 x 17 cm

Unique

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Study IX (Potagoras)

2017

Painted Pakhuis Diamictite

21 x 14 x 13 cm

Unique

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Stay 5

2017

French Oak and Clamp on Glass

108 x 30 x 25 cm

Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Ode

2017

Found Twig, Photograph and Tape

49.5 x 43 cm

Unique

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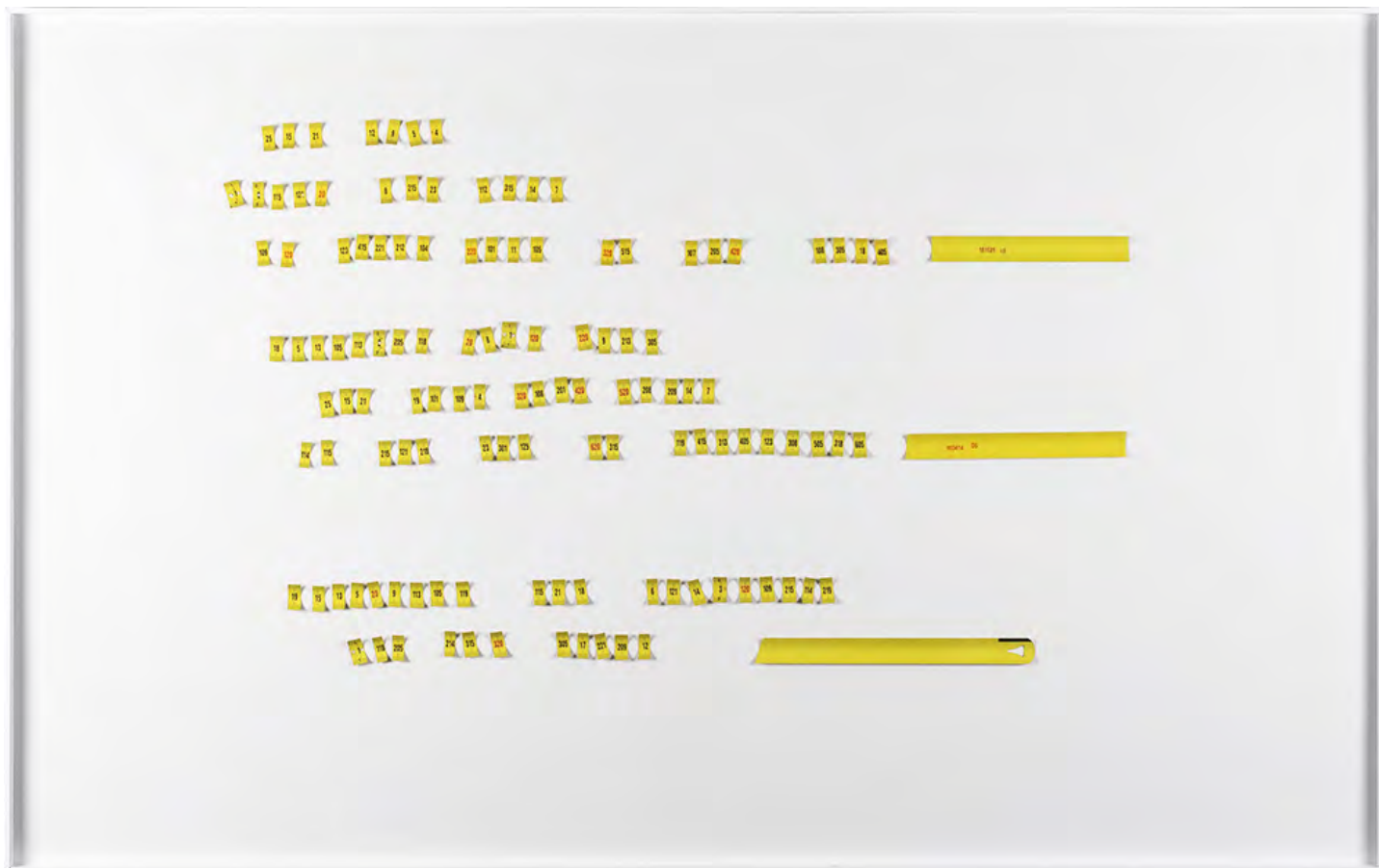
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Ruann Coleman
Cipher Poem III
2017
Cut Measuring Tapes
76 x 120 cm
Unique

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Ruann Coleman

Embrace

2017

Cast Cement and Belt

3.5 m (h)

STD 1/3

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Ruann Coleman

Study X (Void)

2017

Cement

47 x 11 x 11 cm

STD 1/3

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Ruann Coleman

Comparing

2017

Brass and Wooden Rulers

30.5 x 42.5 cm

Unique

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Reach II

2017

Ironwood

30 x 30.2 cm

Unique

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Certain Lengths II

2017

Zibrano and Wild Pear Wood

46 x 29.5 cm

Unique

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Certain Lengths III

2017

Zibrano, Walnut and Wild Pear Wood

46 x 42 cm

Unique

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