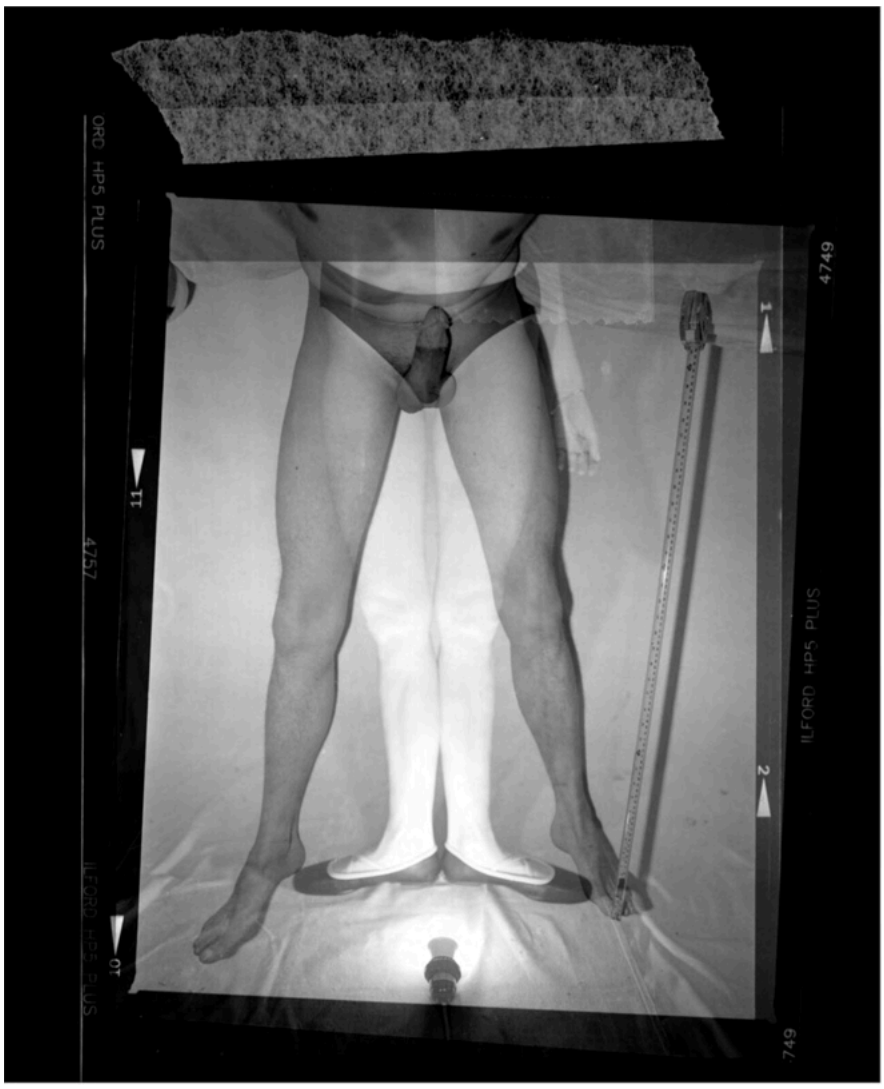
Thomas Erben Gallery



Olivia Reavey, *Exquisite III*, 2026
Silver gelatin print, 54 x 42 in., edition of 5 (+ 1 AP)

Olivia Reavey: *Distension*

October 29 – December 19, 2026
Opens Thursday, October 29, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Thomas Erben is very much looking forward to presenting *Distension*, Olivia Reavey's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Her work was first featured in a two-person show at the

gallery in the fall of 2025, followed by a solo presentation at this year's Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD) fair.

Distension refers to Reavey's way of making, an internal pressure that swells, billows, and finally bursts, taking shape in her photographic practice. In this exhibition, a small cast of an improperly boiled egg, ruptured and spilling from its shell, exemplifies the dedication to "impropriety" that Reavey's photographs explore. The symbol of the distended egg–a most basic domestic skill gone awry–relates to visions of femininity whose boundaries Reavey continuously undermines. Placed on a column centered in the space, it establishes a gravitational field around which her silver gelatin prints orbit.
In this universe, pressure builds through the use of found-objects, both failed and functioning, photographed by Reavey as extensions of the body. Her interest in collage, scale and the analog process are all in pursuit of dismounting expectations that photography has historically created for the figure.

The male body remains a central subject of investigation for Reavey, a counterpart to her self portraits and collaborator whose anatomy she distorts and reimagines in continuously negotiated moments of uncertainty. With unusual croppings and deliberate reconfigurations, she multiplies the body's corporality as well as psychological potential. This same curiosity extends into the darkroom, where experimental exposures, prolonged processing, painting, and scratching, carry her inventiveness into the physical photographic object.

Olivia Reavey's work is indicative of a generation's unabashed assessment of its own situation, cracking hollow parameters of decorum, while still skirting the dangers of nihilism.

Olivia Reavey (b. 1998) received her MFA in Photography from Yale University in 2026 and her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2020. She attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in summer 2026.

Reavey was recently featured on the cover of **Bias Cut Magazine**'s "The Body Issue," and has forthcoming presentations at **Paris Photo** and **Fernberger Gallery** in Los Angeles.
Her work is included in *The Rose*, curated by Justine Kurland, which originated at **The Lumber Room**, Portland, OR, and was most recently on view at the **Center for Photography Woodstock**, Kingston, NY. Olivia has shown at **The Independent Art Fair**, **Yancey Richardson** and **Helena Anrather**. Work of hers has been published in **The New York Times**, **Matte Magazine** and **Vogue**.



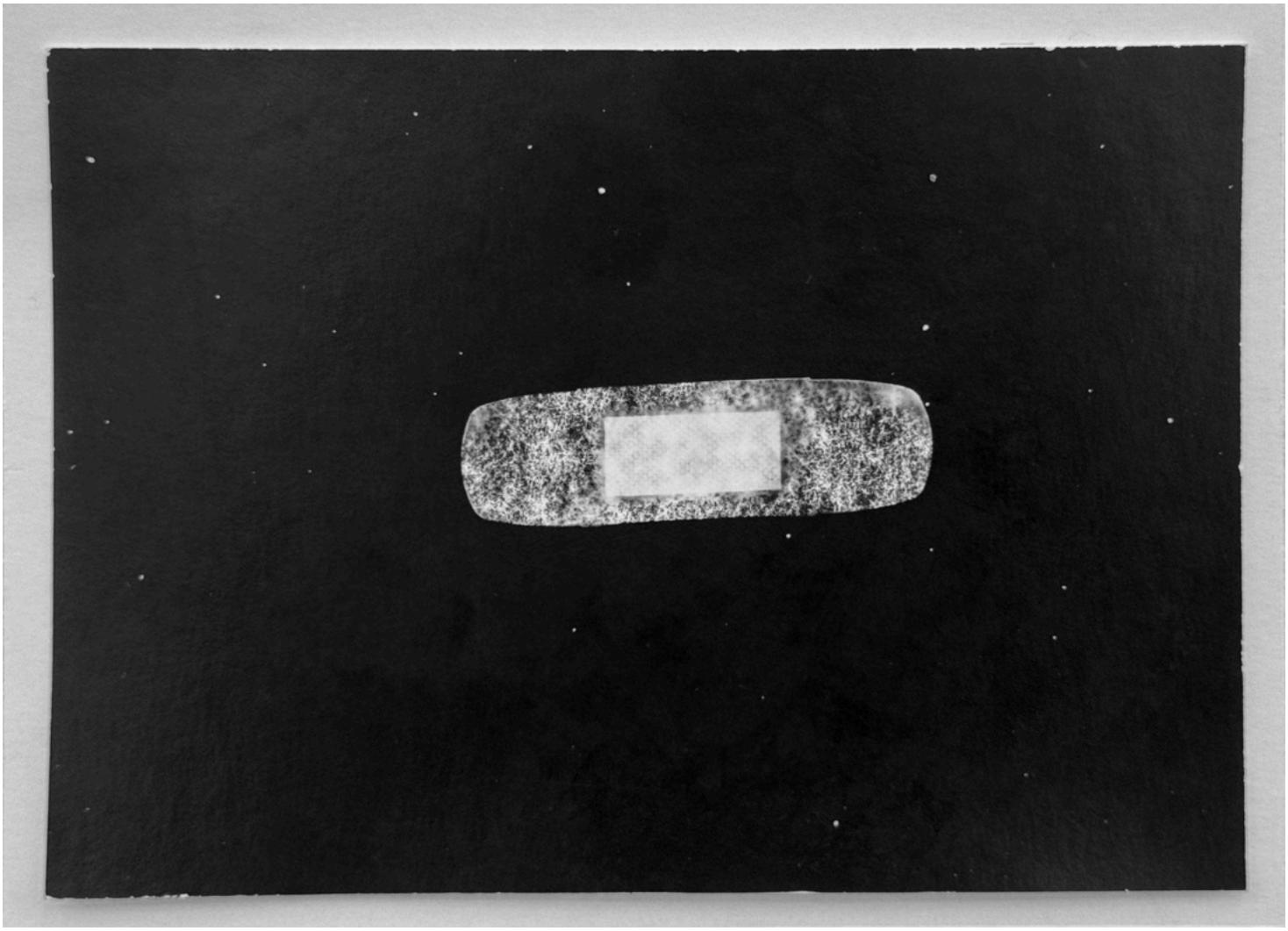
Skullet, 2025
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 20 x 24 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 13 x 18 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



Tin Foil, 2024
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 8 1/2 x 12 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 7 x 9 3/4 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



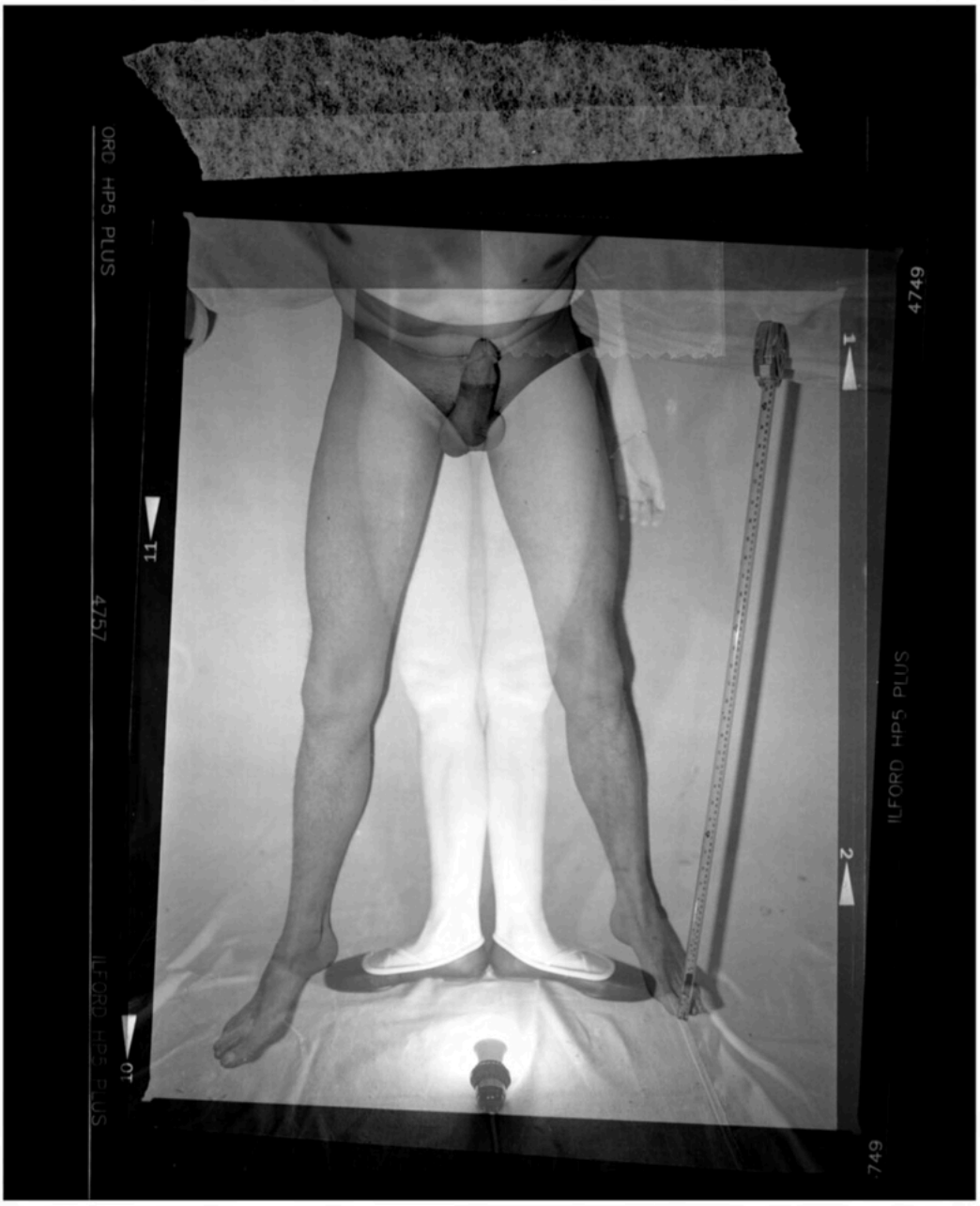
Backbend, 2025
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 11 x 13 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 8 x 10 1/2 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



Bandaid, 2026
Silver gelatin print
5 x 7 in.
Unique



Polkadot, 2026
Silver gelatin print (with hand drawings)
Paper size: 20 x 24 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 14 x 18 in.
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



Exquisite III, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 53 x 41 1/2 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 47 x 39 in.
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



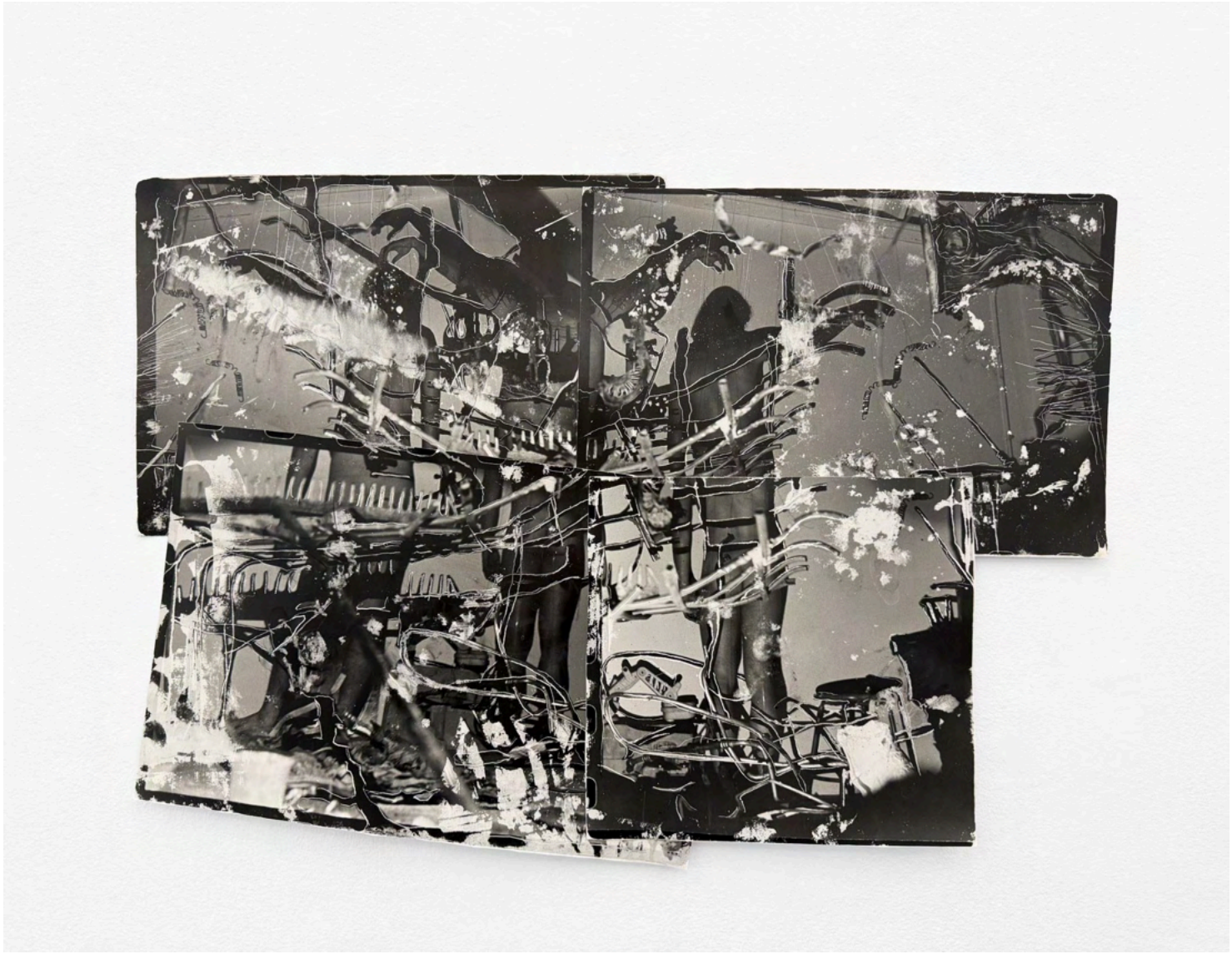
Installation view, west wall. (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



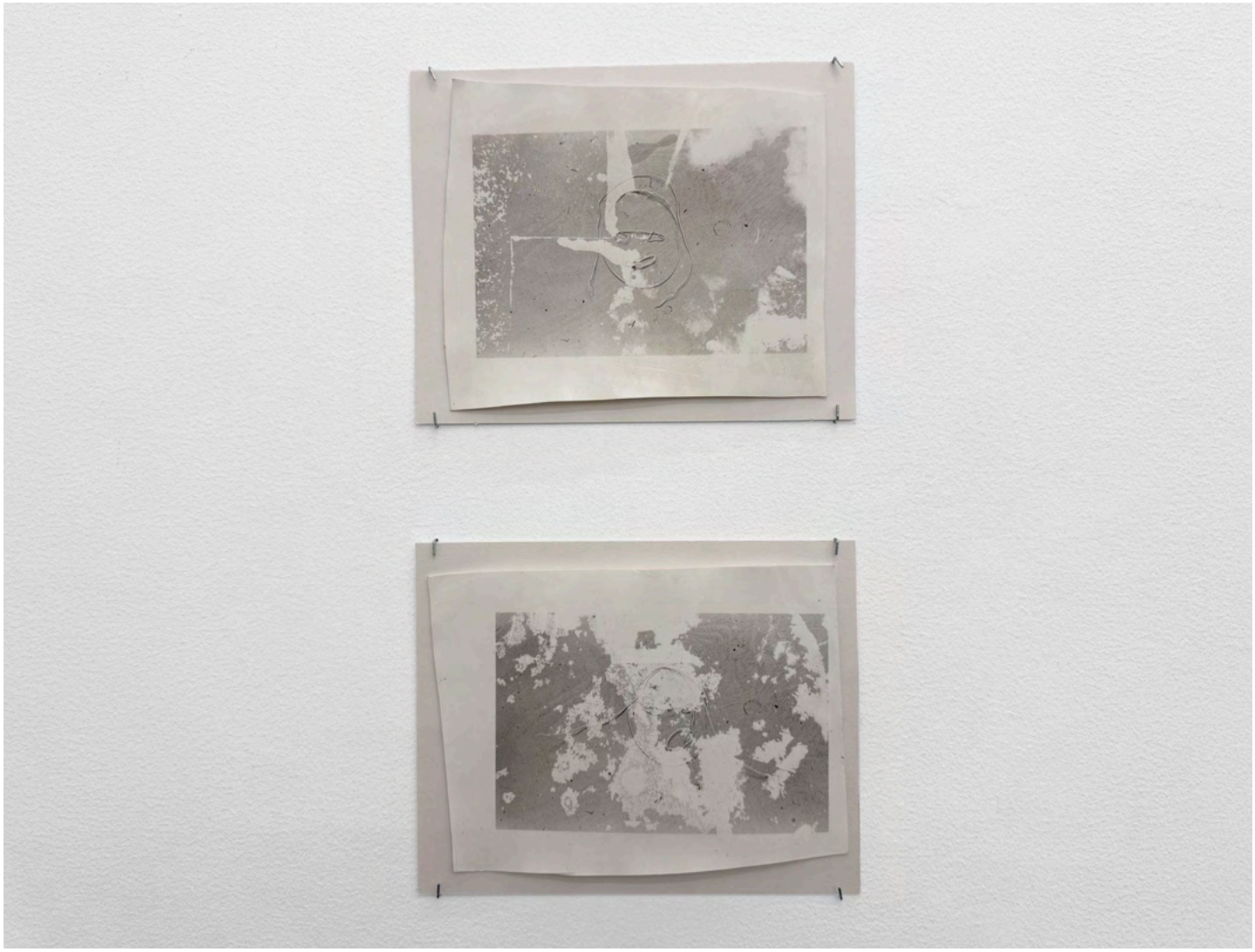
Junkyard I and *Junkyard II*, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 11 x 7 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 8 3/4 x 6 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



Contact Sheet, 2024
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 13 x 10 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 13 x 10 1/2 in.
Unique collage



Junkyard III, 2026
Silver gelatin prints
Paper size: 23 x 34 1/2 in. (irregularly cut)
Unique



Smile and *Scream*, 2026
Silver gelatin prints
Paper size (*Smile*): 8 x 9 1/2 in. (irregularly cut)
Paper size (*Scream*): 7 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 5 1/2 x 8 in.
Unique



Untitled, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 20 x 24 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 11 1/2 x 18 in.
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



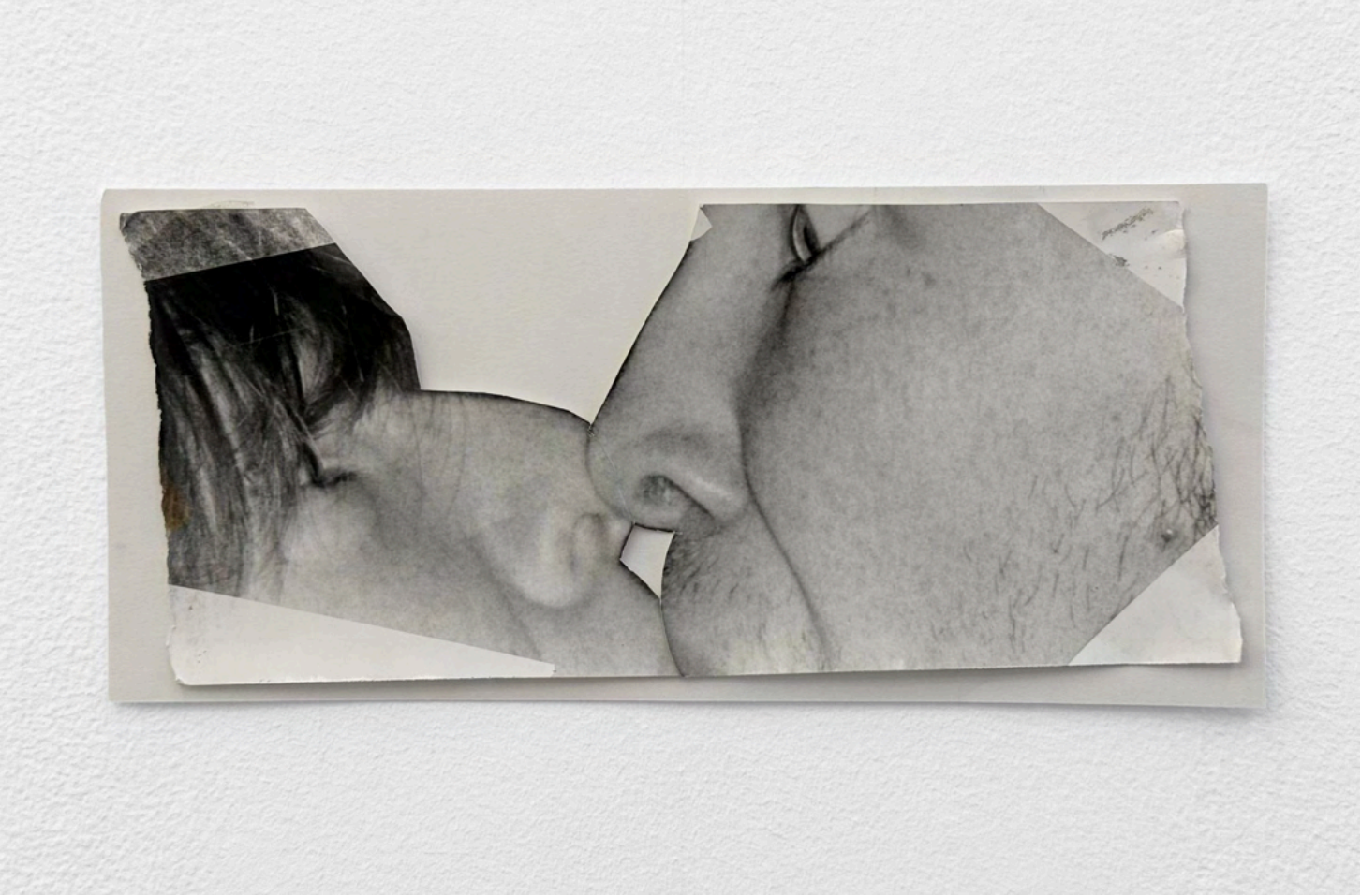
Listening I and *Listening II*, 2026
Silver gelatin prints (diptych)
Paper size (*Listening I*): 9 1/2 x 7 1/4 in. (irregularly cut)
Paper size (*Listening II*): 9 1/2 x 8 1/4 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 8 3/4 x 5 3/4 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



Shards, 2026
Silver gelatin prints (collage)
Paper size: 20 x 24 in. (irregularly cut)
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



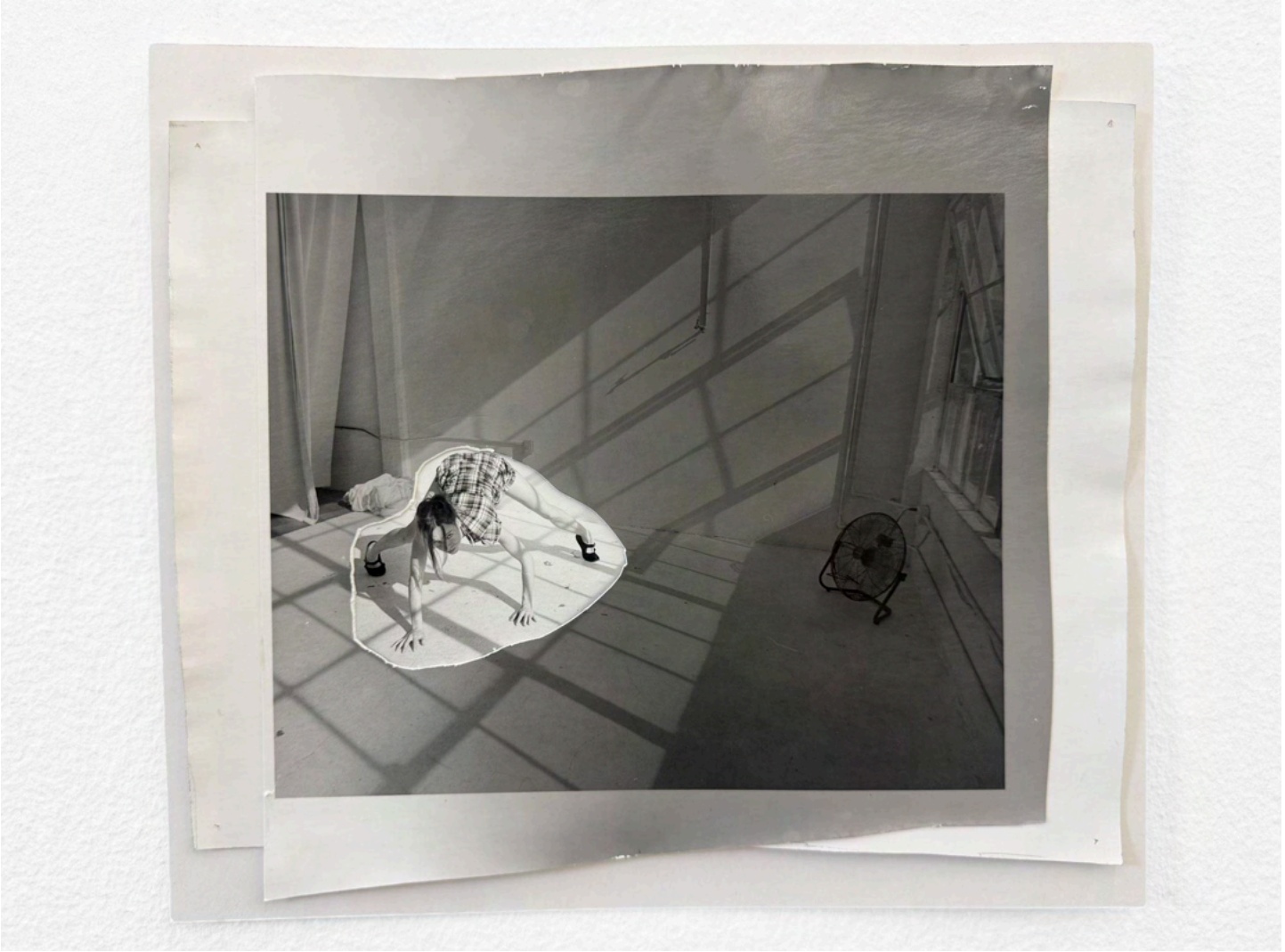
Installation view from entrance (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



Kissing, 2019
Silver gelatin print (collage)
Paper size: 6 x 13 1/2 (irregularly cut)
Image size: 5 3/4 x 13 3/4 in.
Unique



Installation view, north / west walls. (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



Crawl, 2026
Silver gelatin print (collage)
Paper size: 10 x 11 1/2 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 7 1/2 x 8 3/4 in.
Unique



Exquisite II, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 42 x 55 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 39 3/4 x 48 in.
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



Easel, 2025
Silver gelatin print
Image size: 20 x 24 in. (irregularly cut)
Paper size: 14 x 18 in.
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



Gauges, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 6 1/2 x 11 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 in.
Unique



Junkyard IV, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 12 x 9 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 9 1/2 x 6 1/2 in.
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



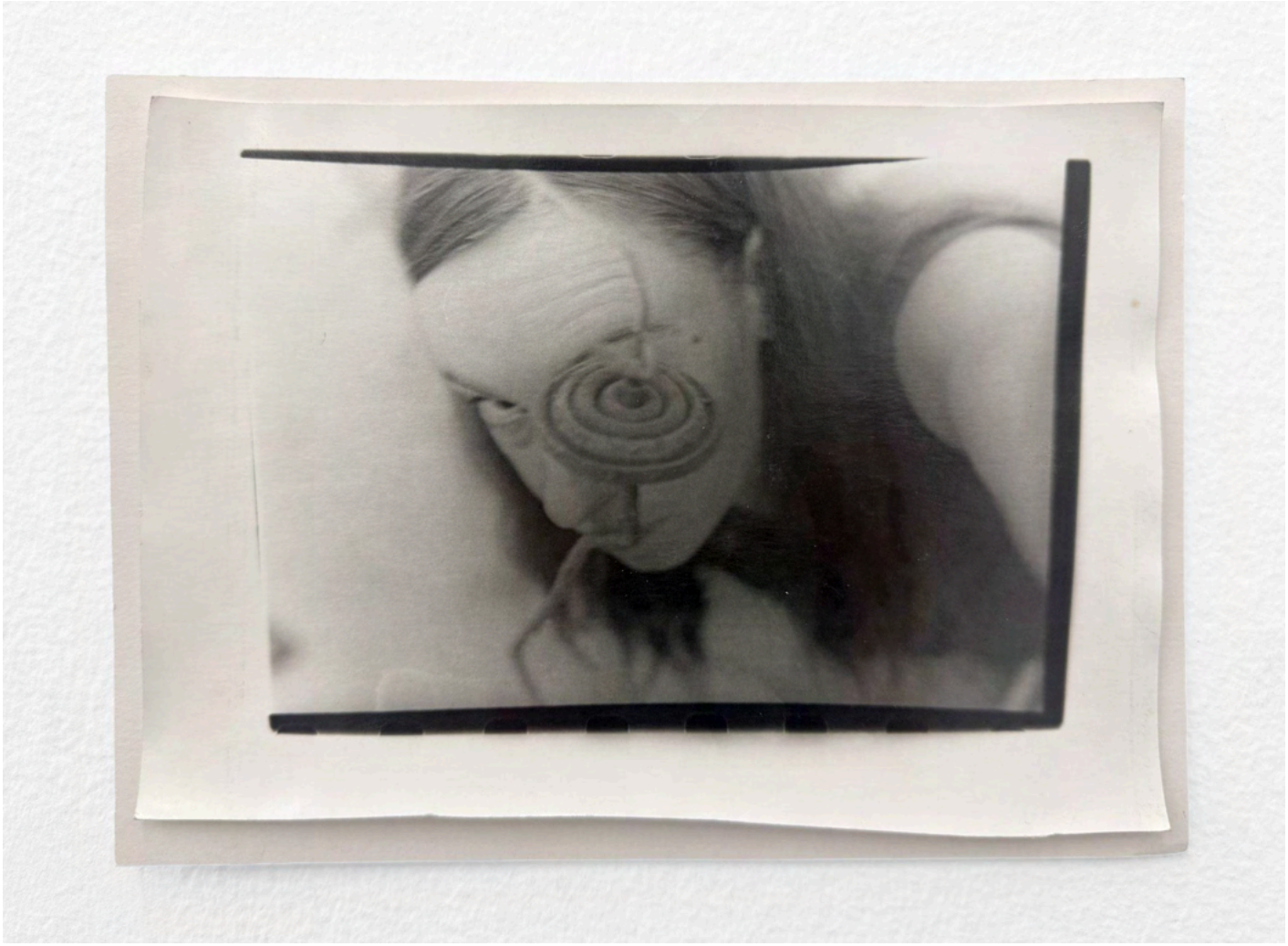
Stick, 2022
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 9 1/2 x 6 3/4 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 in.
Unique



The Performer, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 9 1/4 x 7 3/4 (irregularly cut)
Image size: 7 1/2 x 5 in.
Unique



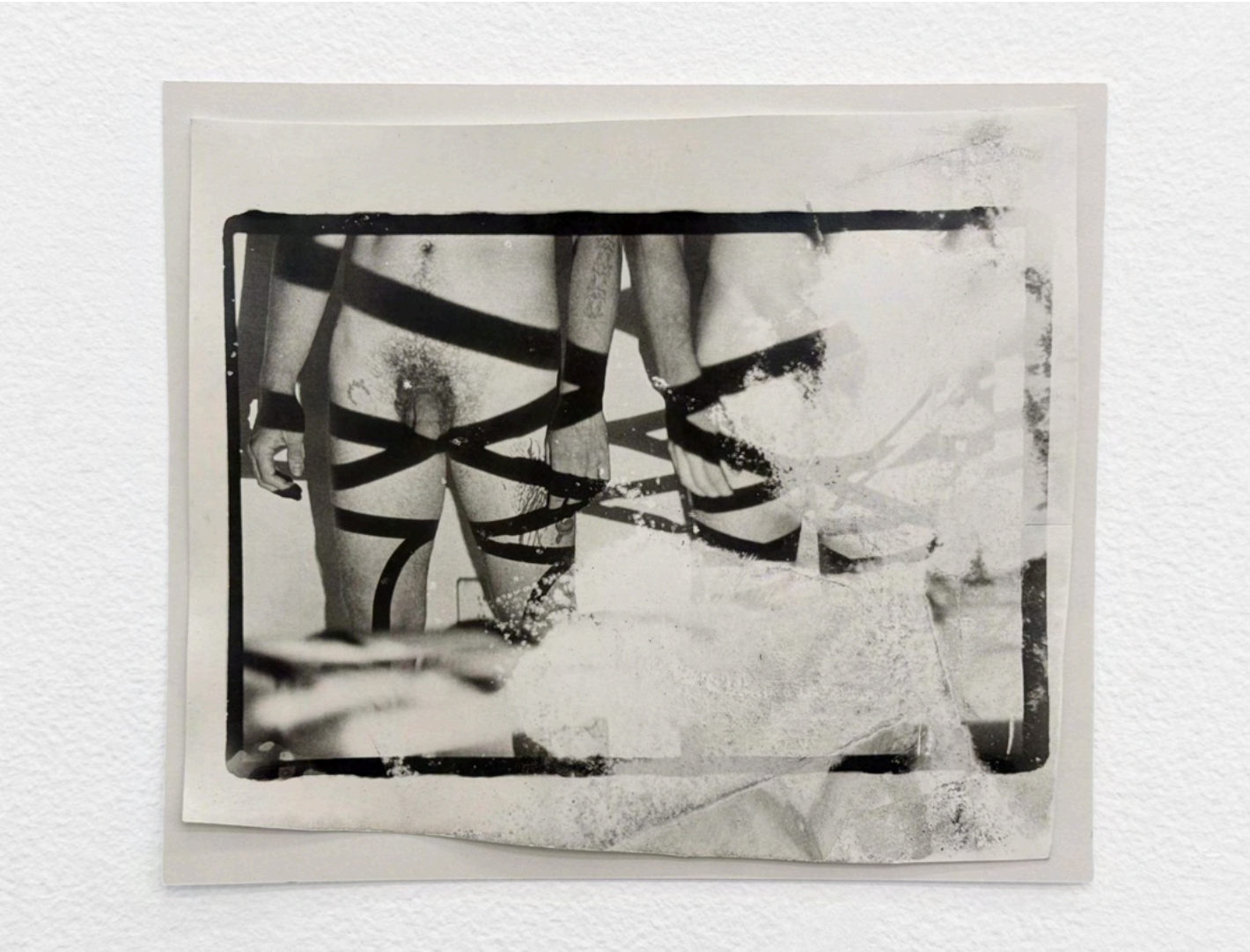
Drawing I, 2026
Silver gelatin print (with hand drawings)
Paper size: 11 x 9 1/2 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 9 1/2 x 6 1/2 in.
Unique



Olivia, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 6 3/4 x 9 3/4 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 5 1/2 x 8 in.
Unique



Untitled, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 11 x 7 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 9 x 6 1/4 in.
Unique



Drawing II, 2026
Silver gelatin print (with hand drawings)
Paper size: 8 x 10 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 6 1/2 x 9 1/4 in.
Unique



Installation view, east wall. (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



Exquisite I, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 43 x 25 in. (irregularly cut)
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



Installation view, south / east walls. (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



Safe light, 2026
C-prints
24 x 42 in. (irregularly cut)
Edition of 3 + 1 AP



Portrait, 2026
Silver gelatin print
Paper size: 11 x 17 in. (irregularly cut)
Image size: 8 x 11 1/2 in.
Unique



Installation view, south walls. (photo: Fernando Sandoval/MW)