

# Hannah Levy

## Surplus Tension

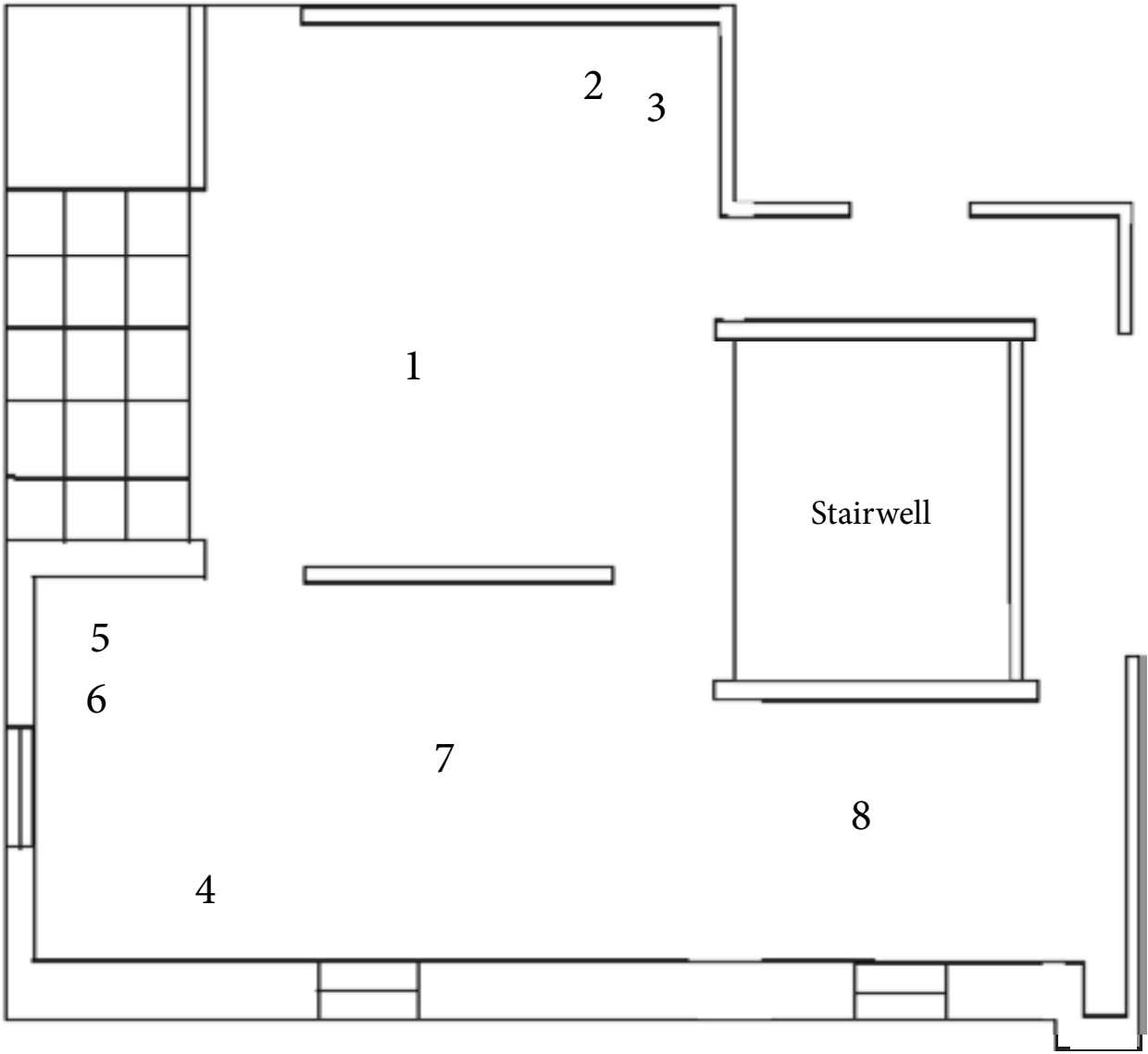
Hannah Levy (b. 1991, New York) brings to The Arts Club of Chicago a series of works in her signature materials of nickel-plated steel and silicone. All but one were made exclusively for The Arts Club's rooms, which Levy recognizes for their luxuriant finishes. The terrazzo, travertine, lacquer, leather, silk and velvet that characterize The Arts Club's building, inherited from architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, contrast with popular ideas about the minimalism of the mid-century aesthetic. Indeed, by using reflection in the highly polished floors or by engaging with ceiling and structural surfaces, Levy focuses our attention on the grittier, more corporeal underside of the familiar features of modernism. Her sculptures conjure images of indulgent parties, daring sex play, or taboo desire. They resemble or depart from familiar household, bodily, or animal shapes; we recognize claws, chairs, a swing, chandelier, or tent. Yet there are also subtler clues embedded in the constructions—the texture of a crocodile, the ties of a corset, or the armature of a bat's wing. These take a moment to discover—or to embody—and lead us to physically encounter Levy's conception of pleasure through the curve of metal or its contact with fleshly silicone skins.

## Hannah Levy: Surplus Tension

The Arts Club of Chicago

September 30 – January 29, 2022

1. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 68 x 74 x 74 in.
2. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 27.75 x 8 x 15 in.
3. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 33.5 x 8 x 15 in.
4. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 39 x 8 x 15 in.
5. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 26 x 16 x 46 in.
6. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 26 x 16 x 46 in.
7. *Untitled*, 2021. Nickel-plated steel, silicone. 60 x 70 x 85 in.
8. *Untitled*, 2018. Nickel-plated steel, silicone, rubber, zipper. 105 x 97 x 97 in. Rennie Collection, Vancouver.



Hannah Levy (b. 1991, New York) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include the High Line, New York (2021); Casey Kaplan, New York (2020); Mother's Tank-station, Dublin, Ireland (2018); C L E A R I N G, New York (2018); and White Flag Projects Library, St. Louis, Missouri (2016). Notable group exhibitions include Wege zur Welt – Hildebrand Collection, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig (2019); The New Frontiers of the Contemporary, Fondazione Coppola, Vicenza, Italy (2019); The Artist is Present, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China (2018); I See You, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum, Savannah, Georgia (2018); Being There, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (2017); Past Skin, MoMA PS1, New York, New York (2017); and Things I Think I Want. Six Positions of Contemporary Art, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (2017).

The exhibition was curated by Janine Mileaf, Executive Director and Chief Curator.

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