

Chadwick Rantanen

RIGORS

September 14 – November 4, 2023

Michael Benevento is proud to present a solo exhibition of new works by Chadwick Rantanen. This is Rantanen's first solo presentation since joining the gallery in 2022.

The acoustic guitar is fine as it is; it need not be improved. And yet, Kaman Industries took the knowledge acquired from eliminating unwanted vibrations in helicopter blades and applied it to the vibrations in a guitar body, re-engineered in parabolic plastic instead of wood. A military industrial musical instrument born of restless, corporate diversification.

The Kaman Corporation develops products and technologies within the aerospace, defense, and medical industries and is unique among its competitors for its foray into guitar design. Highly diversified corporations make countless decisions, mainly to maintain control rather than out of passion. They turn to building ecosystems of design and manufacturing. Building worlds instead of building-within-this-world.

Aesthetics are usually not a problem to be solved. Decorative concerns are inconsequential in engineering. But when a certain kind of 'look' must be decided for the sake of world-building, strange cross-pollination occurs. Aesthetics fold back into engineering; contaminations of adjacency tend to appear: wood made to look like leaves, a rock made of sand. Design is shot through, chewed a little too long, leaving a contrivance that merely tips its hat to the rich culture and history that it renders in plastics.

In plants, cleistogamy occurs in response to crisis or a loss of resources. Their flowers never open. Instead, they turn in on themselves. Ligature is only possible when something does the opposite: reaches out and opens up. Ligature operates within a small spectrum of textural latitude, preferring roughness over smoothness. An object's 'patina' (Latin: "a shallow dish") fills up by disintegrating and accruing. That which is worn has lost a part of itself and acquired some aspects of the things around it. These worn things have proven their ability to merge, even create sympathy. Yet, that which is closed, sterile and unambiguous may also care, despite its dour presence.

Chadwick Rantanen (b. 1981, Wausau, Wisconsin) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Solo exhibitions include Secession, Vienna, Austria; Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome, Italy; Standard (Oslo), Oslo, Norway; Essex Street, New York, New York; Overduin and Co., Los Angeles, California; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; Bel Ami, Los Angeles, California; CAPITAL, San Francisco, California. He has been included in group exhibitions at Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, Michigan; Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, Austria; Tanya Bonakdar, Los Angeles, California; Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany; Luhring Augustine, New York; CLEARING, Paris, France; Swiss Institute, New York; and Kunsthau Glarus, Glarus; SculptureCenter, Long Island City, New York; and Artists Space, New York. His work is in the collections of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; ArtNow International, San Francisco; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Albright-Knox, Buffalo, New York. Rantanen's work has been reviewed in Mousse Magazine, Frieze, Artforum, The Los Angeles Times, Art in America, New York Times, Flash Art, and CARLA.



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
115 x 32 inches
mb1941



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
115 x 32 inches
mb1942



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1961



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1961



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1960



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1960



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
52 x 94 inches
mb1959



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (distressed), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
52 x 65.5 inches
mb1953



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1955



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1955



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1956



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1956



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1957



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1957



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1958



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1958



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
52 x 65.5 inches
mb1953



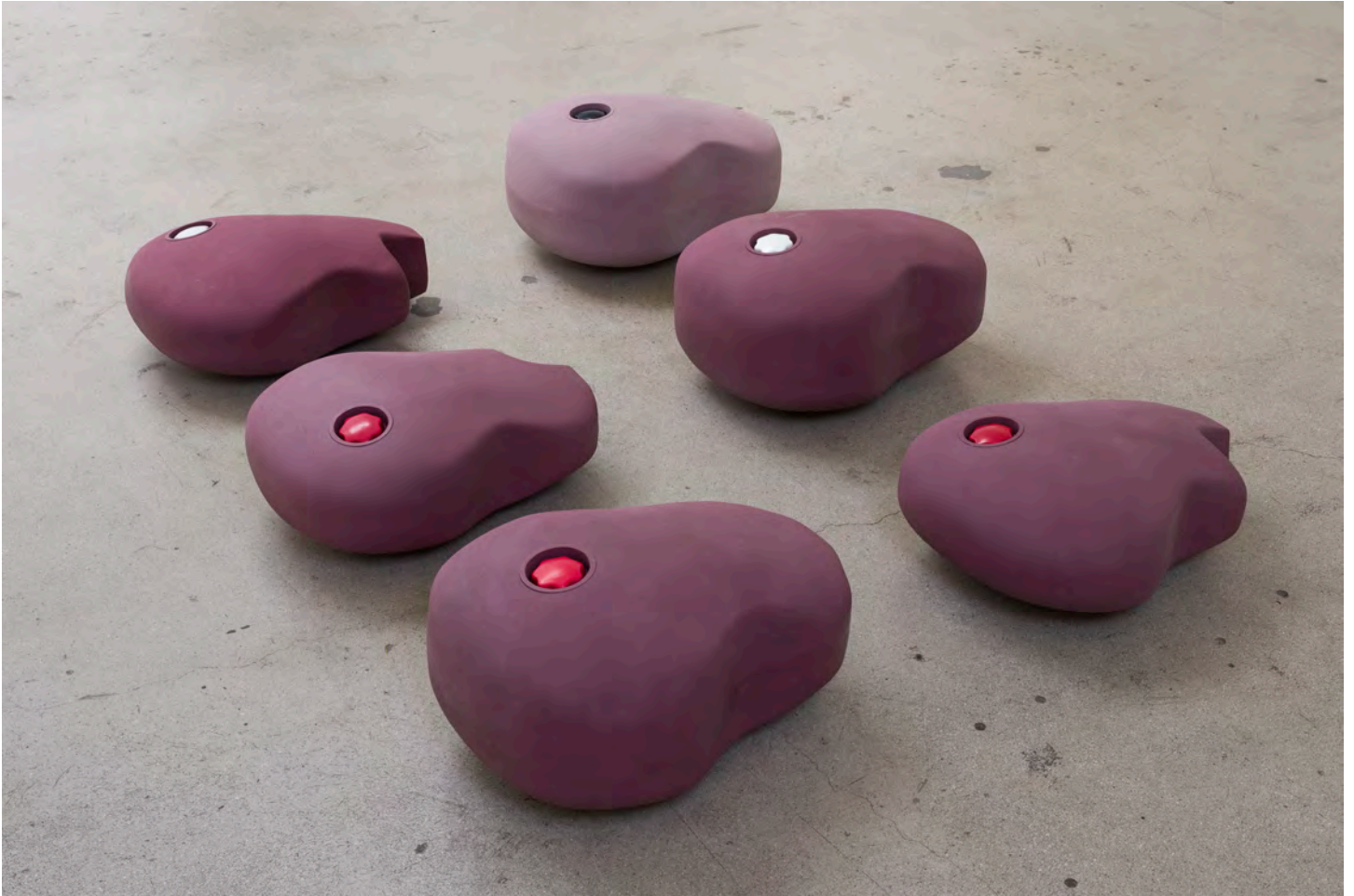
Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (distressed), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
76 x 57 inches
mb1944



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
76 x 57 inches
mb1943



Chadwick Rantanen, *RIGORS*, Installation view, 2023



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1946



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1946



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1947



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1947



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1948



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1948



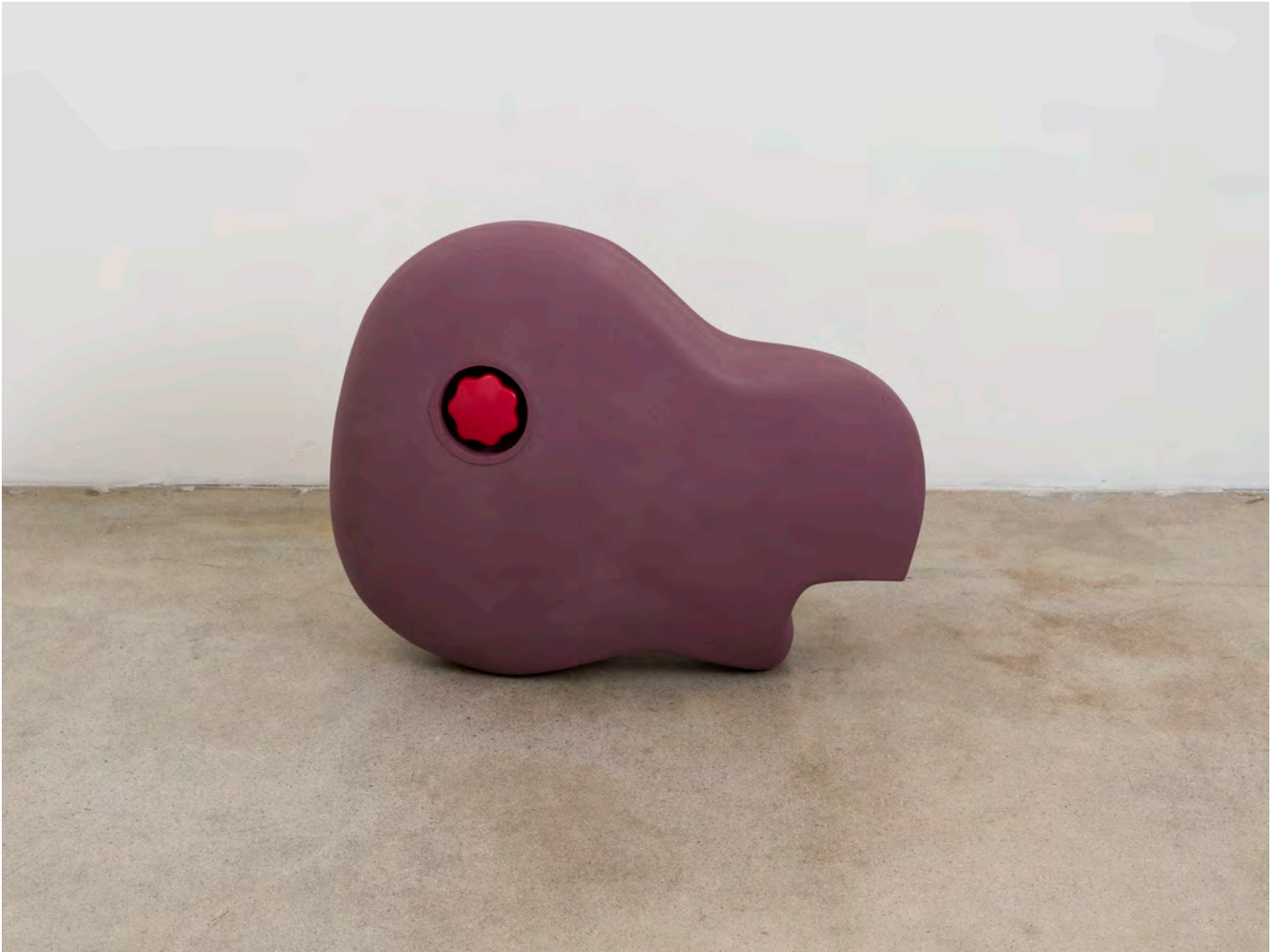
Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1949



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1949



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1950



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Cutaway, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1950



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1951



Chadwick Rantanen
Weightable Roundback, 2023
Fiberglass, resin, wood, urethane, pvc, sand
12 x 16.5 x 20 inches
mb1951



Chadwick Rantanen
Epaulet (scrambled eggs), 2023
Laser cut poplar plywood, stain
71 x 43 inches
mb1945