

FEB 26-MAY 9, 2021

JESSICA VAUGHN: OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Jessica Vaughn (born 1983, Penn MFA '10) considers the everyday structures that inform our understanding of labor, race, and space. *Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful* – the title drawn from a work on view in this gallery – surveys the artist's new and recent work, in this exhibition, she examines late twentieth- and twenty-first-century office culture, the promise of malleability and universality of modular architecture, and marginalized workers who have been rendered invisible in these spaces. Vaughn transforms and repurposes employee training videos, career exploration tools, government occupational reports, and lighting fixtures in ways that urge us to reconsider the systems that shape the places where we work.

The photographs, sculptures, paintings, and video on view are grounded in the political and social influences of the workplace: labor and affirmative action policies used to integrate the workforce, modular building and design systems that revolutionized the American office, and the minimalist art movement that prioritized industrial materials. These three seemingly disparate moments that have been historicized as distinct are, in fact, intertwined and present today. These are some of the materials that Vaughn chooses to work with.

On display in a moment of radical change, Vaughn's examination of discarded and mass-produced materials reminds us to contemplate the objects and spaces we come into contact with daily. Presented within this exhibition are the material legacies of these histories, not only as they existed in the past, but also as they persist today.

Organized by Mary Olin, Associate & Logistics Associate Curator.
The exhibition is co-curated by a solo commission installation that will be presented in June 2021.

Support has been provided by the Institute Fund. The Institute Fund is an endowment created to support the City's right of exploration, supporting artists and curators in their quest to uncover the unknown through mid-career research, exhibition, publication, and conservation, including the fund's primary program, the artist-in-residence. It is intended to support these endeavors, encouraging the artist and support to work in tandem.

This project is supported in part by the Draper Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, MacKenzie and the Robert B. Stuebel Foundation. Additional support has been provided by David M. Mandelbaum Associates, Dorsey & Martin, Kessler, John R. Lawrence, Kessler, Clark & Taylor, Friedman, Kira K. Kessler, Jonathan M. Kessler, Thomas B. Kessler, Kessler, and Kessler & Kessler.

Draper Foundation



BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT QUITE
SURE HOW THE INDIVIDUAL
WILL REACT.



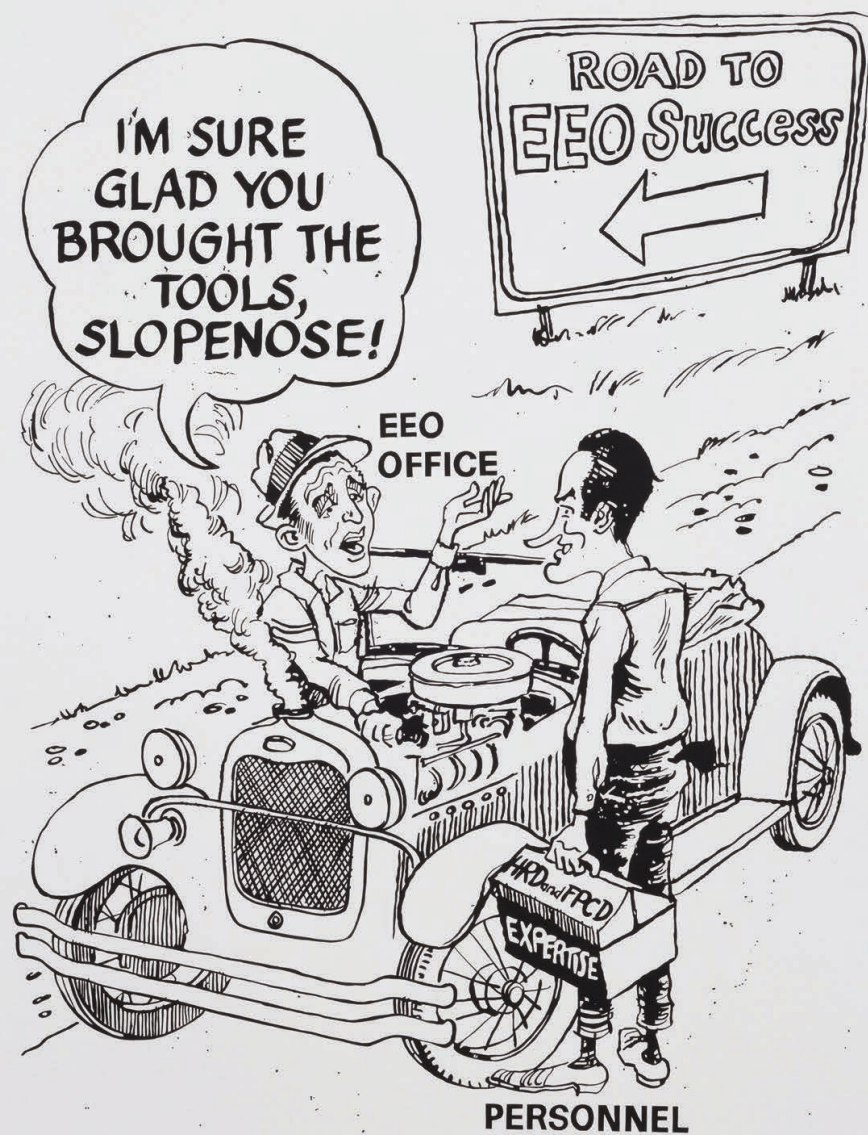
Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful, Installation view, Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia

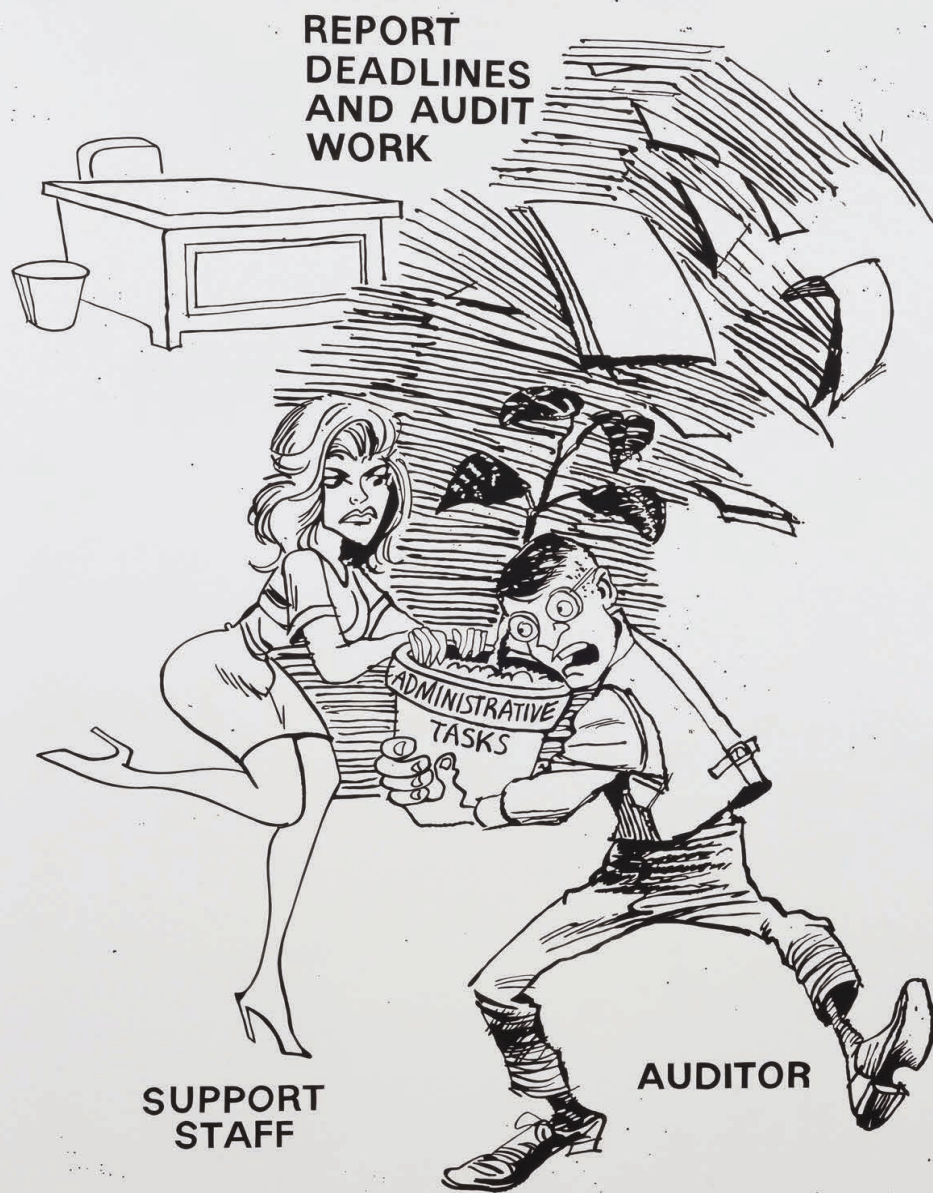
2021

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors

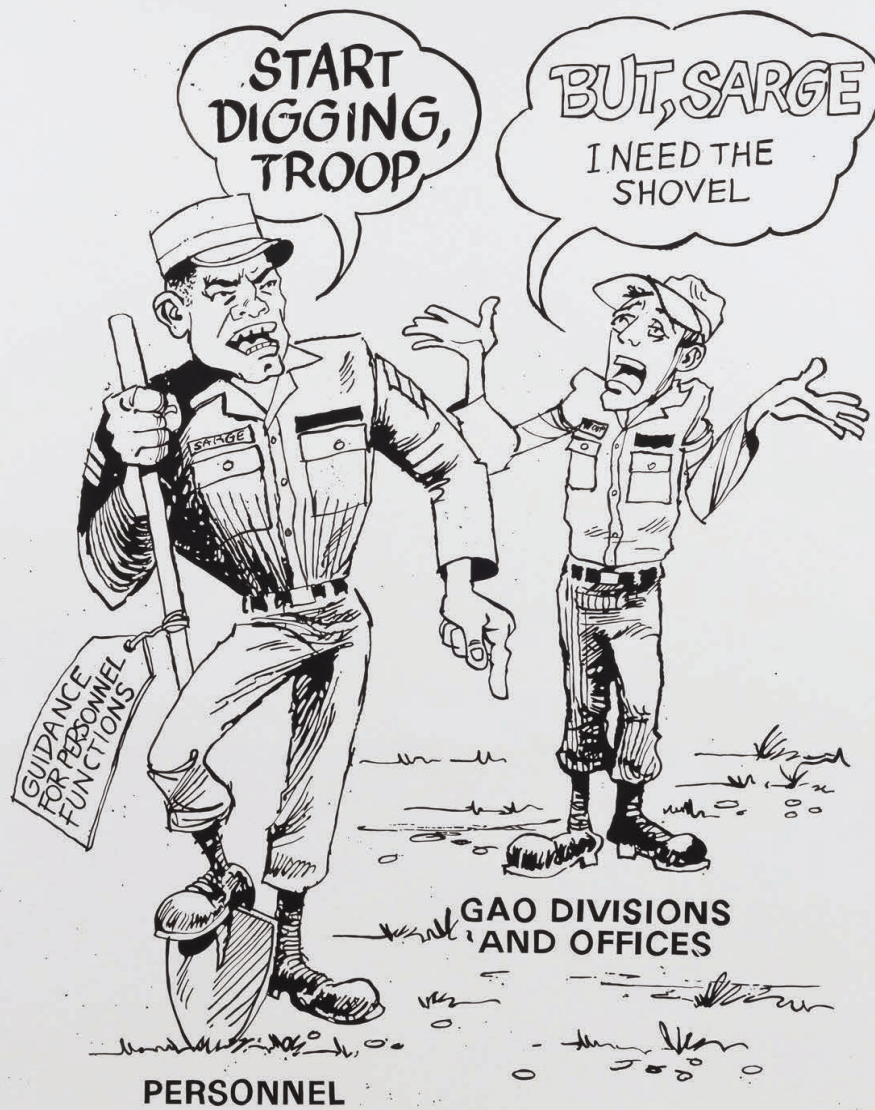


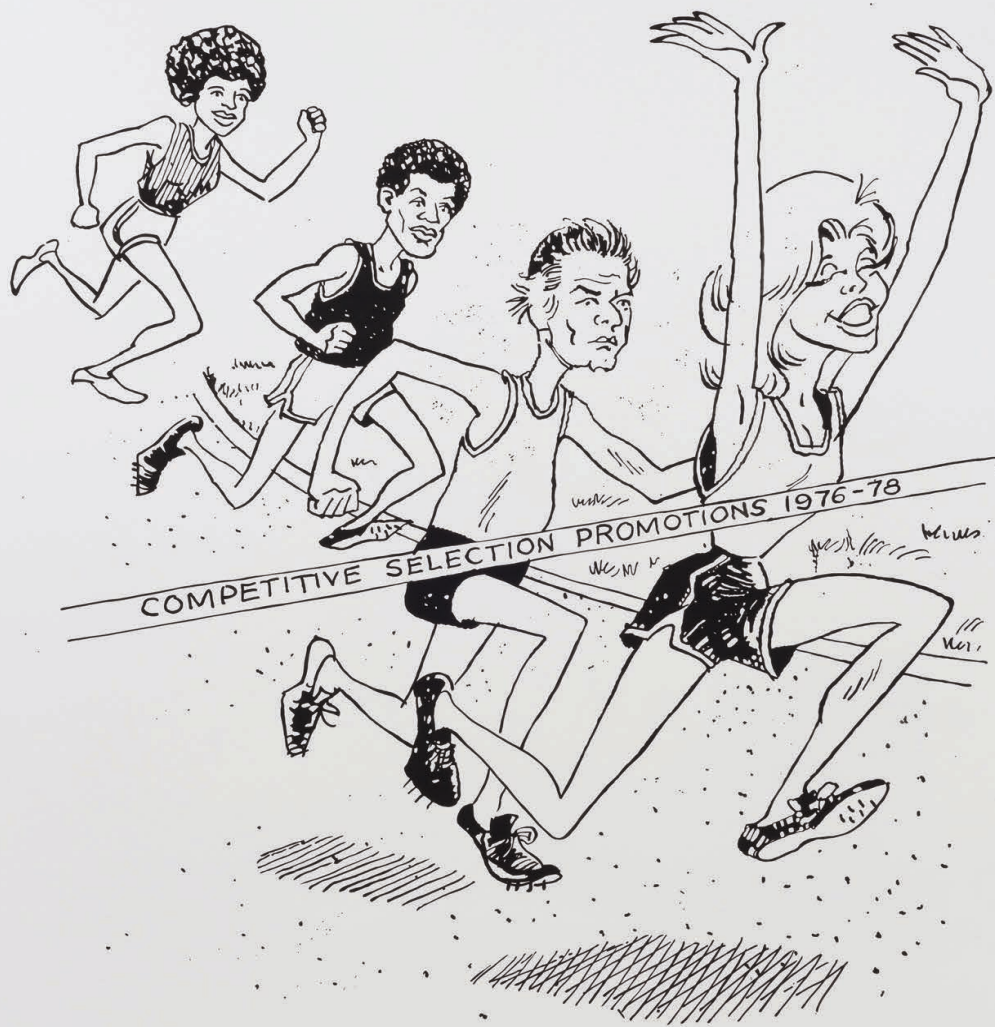
Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful, Installation view, Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia
2021
Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors





7





18

Problems Sets

2021

Acrylic Paint

101 1/2 x 71 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful, Installation view, Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia
2021

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Hope Labor, Flat and Folded

2021

Painted aluminum

Approximately 77 x 35 inches each

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Hope Labor, Flat and Folded

2021

Painted aluminum

Approximately 77 x 35 inches each

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Hope Labor, Flat and Folded

2021

Painted aluminum

Approximately 77 x 35 inches each

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful

2021

2-channel, color digital video installation, sound, loop

7 minutes and 37 seconds

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful

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2-channel, color digital video installation, sound, loop

7 minutes and 37 seconds

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Our Primary Focus Is To Be Successful, Installation view, Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia
2021
Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Empties

2019

Archival pigment print

11 x 11 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Empties

2019

Archival pigment print

11 x 11 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Empties

2019

Archival pigment print

11 x 11 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Empties

2019

Archival pigment print

11 x 11 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Dark Blue, Installation view

2021

Stacks of fabric scraps from manufacturer

88 x 60 inches

Photo Credit: Constance Mensh



Dark Blue; South Beach No. 036; Boomer Gray #341

2021

Stacks of fabric scraps from manufacturer

88 x 60 inches, 85 x 63 inches ; 90x62 inches; 71 x 56 ½ inches

Photo Credit: Constance Mensh



Boomer Gray #341, Detail

2021

Stacks of fabric scraps from manufacturer

71 x 56 ½ inches

Photo Credit: Constance Mensh



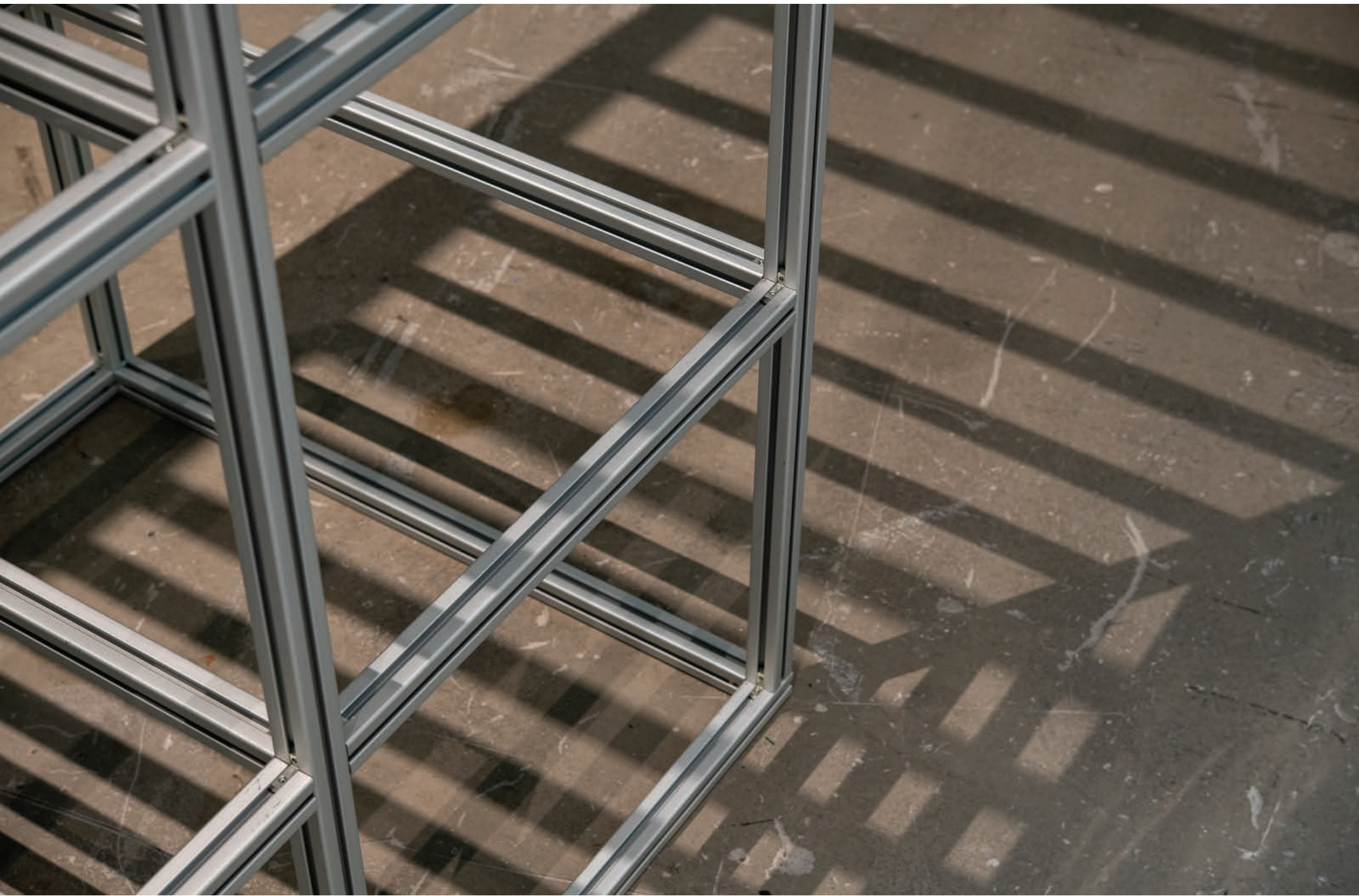
Irrational Rest

2021

Programmed LED lights on 8/20 system

180 x 144 inches

Photo Credit: Pierre Le Hors



Irrational Rest, Detail

2021

Programmed LED lights on 8/20 system

180 x 144 inches

Photo Credit: Constance Mensh



Irrational Rest, Detail

2021

Programmed LED lights on 8/20 system

180 x 144 inches

Photo Credit: Constance Mensh



Depreciating Assets

2021

130 pages

Paperback, Perfect Binding, Tape Bound Off et Printed, Color

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GAO-19-637T

women in the workplace



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United States General Accounting Office
Report to the Chairman, Committee on
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Treatment of Blacks at
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