



This exhibition explores the intersections between memory, cognitive decline, and environmental stressors through sculpture, video, and sound.

Jonathan Durham (solo exhibition)
Memory in Retrograde



Jonathan Durham
Sundowning, 2025
video and digital animations
7min 39sec loop



In the video *Sundowning*—named for the agitation and disorientation experienced by people with Alzheimer’s and dementia—multiple sunsets filmed across the U.S. gradually give way to the venting flares of petrochemical refineries. Animated with symbols from oil and gas drilling maps, the work connects the shifting light of memory and cognition with the extractive forces that shape our landscapes, suggesting that the vulnerabilities of mind and environment are deeply entangled.

[Video link
https://vimeo.com/1141660512?fl=pl&fe=sh](https://vimeo.com/1141660512?fl=pl&fe=sh)



Jonathan Durham
Aphasia, 2025
antique tobacco planter,
transducer, looping audio
38 x 12 x 13 inches
video link:

<https://vimeo.com/1148959382?fl=pl&fe=sh>

An antique tobacco planter is amplified with looping audio of my cat Julio growling continuously. The growling oscillates from menacing to humorous. In my mother's final year, I left Julio with her and dad because my first apartment in Texas wouldn't allow pets. I often imagined what secret unknown language transpired between Mom (at the height of her cognitive changes due to Alzheimer's) and Julio - who was a feral kitten when I found him on the streets of Brooklyn. Even while seemingly happy and content, Julio growls, crouches low to the ground and hisses at almost any movement in the space he inhabits. The tobacco planter belonged to my grandfather who grew tobacco in North Carolina and eventually had to give up the crop due to diminishing federal support and quotas. Mom helped him plant new tobacco plants with this device.

*Aphasia is a language disorder that affects the ability to understand, produce, or use language. It can cause difficulties with speaking, reading, writing, and understanding spoken or written words. Dementia and aphasia can occur together in certain conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease -the most common cause of dementia.



Jonathan Durham
Mnemonic Objects,
2025
epoxy clay, paint, 3D
printed PLA
46 x 34 x 18 inches



Jonathan Durham
Mnemonic Objects
(Porcupine Skulls), 2025

epoxy clay, paint, 3D printed
PLA
46 x 34 x 18 inches (four parts)

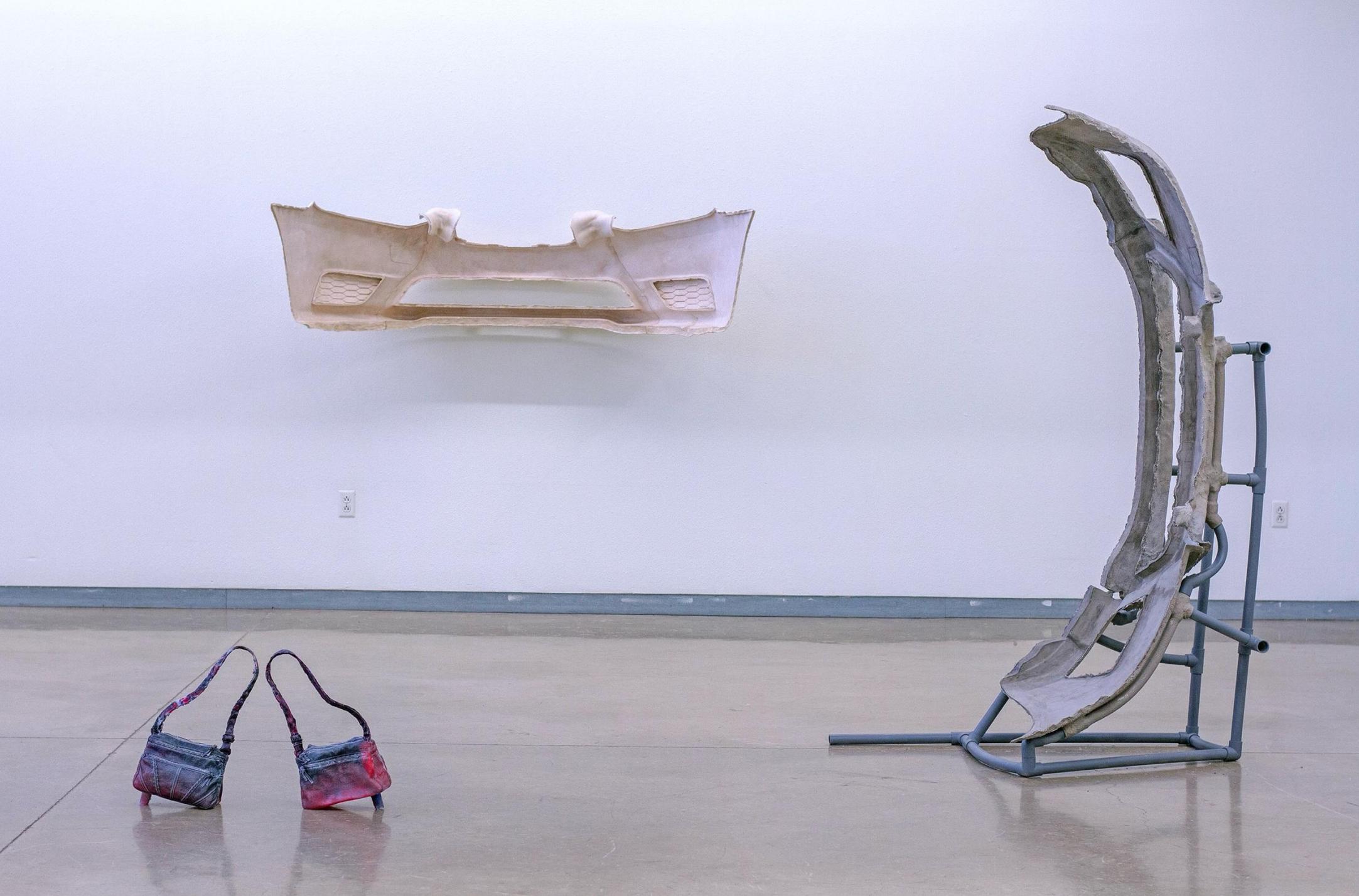
"Mnemonic Objects" are physical items used to trigger memories or aid in recalling information. I've been making versions of this porcupine skull in various scales and materials as a way of recalling a dream. This latest version is sculpted hollow so that the interiors contain impressions of fossils and flammable gas pipe fittings. In my dream, I remember a scene where thousands of beetles morphed into porcupines on top of a mesa while the sun was rising. At first I tried to read symbolism into this scene - beetles = death and transformation, porcupines - a guarded curiosity. Now I just enjoy making different versions of the skull and treating it like an excavation site, carving new iterations of the dream into the present. I replaced the natural teeth of the porcupine with enlarged replicas of my own back three molars.



Memory in Retrograde(Oil Pans), 2025
aqua-resin, acrylic fingernails, custom nail art
decals, UV-resin, oil clay, metallic pigments

forms derived from sectional casts of
automotive oil pans
two units: each 9 x 22 x 20 inches

video:
Sundowning, 2025
video and digital animations
7min 39sec loop



Jonathan Durham
Memory In Retrograde
Installation view

clockwise from left:

*I don't think that I
have any money at all
honey...*, 2025
cast thermoplastic,
polyurethane
27 x 6 x 19 inches

*Axilla (Car bumper
with Armpits)*, 2025
Aqua-resin, fiberglass,
metallic powders
74 x 35 x 30 inches

*Cleaver/Gamma-
Secretase*/Nissan
Sentra*, 2025
Aqua-resin, fiberglass,
PVC
50 x 33 x 78 inches



Mnemonic Object
aqua-resin
23 x 13 x 14 inches

form derived from an enlarged, digitally altered porcupine skull with implanted human molars and impressions of trilobite fossils.



Jonathan Durham
Sand Dream, 2024
aqua-resin
5 x 6 x 2.5 inches

This work is cast in aqua-resin (polymer gypsum) and derived from a digital scan of my dental impressions combined with a 3D printed beetle and cross stamped pennies. The pennies with crosses were given to me by a clerk in a thrift store in Texas who said, "you look like you need these." I grind my teeth at night and have been thinking about teeth as the fossil records of our dreams. Like the needle of a record player scratching on vinyl to transmit music, the grinding of teeth during sleep etches the contours and traces of a dream in thinning enamel and cracked molars.



Jonathan Durham
Just Make Cookies, 2021

tractor trailer 5th wheel,
custom propane burner,
45lbs cookie dough, artificial
sweeteners, aluminum, steel
92 x 49 x 31 inches



This project was inspired by activists in Tulsa, OK who were told by a representative from the Holly Refinery to “just bake cookies” to hide the smell of noxious gases the factory was illegally venting into their neighborhood. Performance actions include baking a 45lbs chocolate chip cookie on a tractor trailer 5th wheel coupler so that the smell filled the entire gallery block, dancing with police batons and creating an incense sculpture infused with used motor oil. Performance video link <https://vimeo.com/692258494>

Jonathan Durham
Just Make Cookies, 2021
performance, audio, sculpture
solo exhibition, Tulsa OK



Jonathan Durham
Horizontal Assets
solo exhibition 2021,
mixed media sculpture,
audio and video

foreground:
Con Me 1, 2021
cast flexible foam,
metallic pigments,
thermoplastic
78 x 89 x 16 inches



Jonathan Durham
Slicer, 2020
Aqua resin, PVC
39 x 37 x 40 inches



Jonathan Durham
Double Fake
(Burden of Proof)
2021
decommissioned
fracking drill bit and
cast replica in
pillow soft foam
with metal
pigments
14 x 7 x 8 inches



Jonathan Durham
Mother Earth, 2020
mold of fracking drill bit,
Aqua-resin, silicone,
bentonite clay
16 x 8 x 25 inches

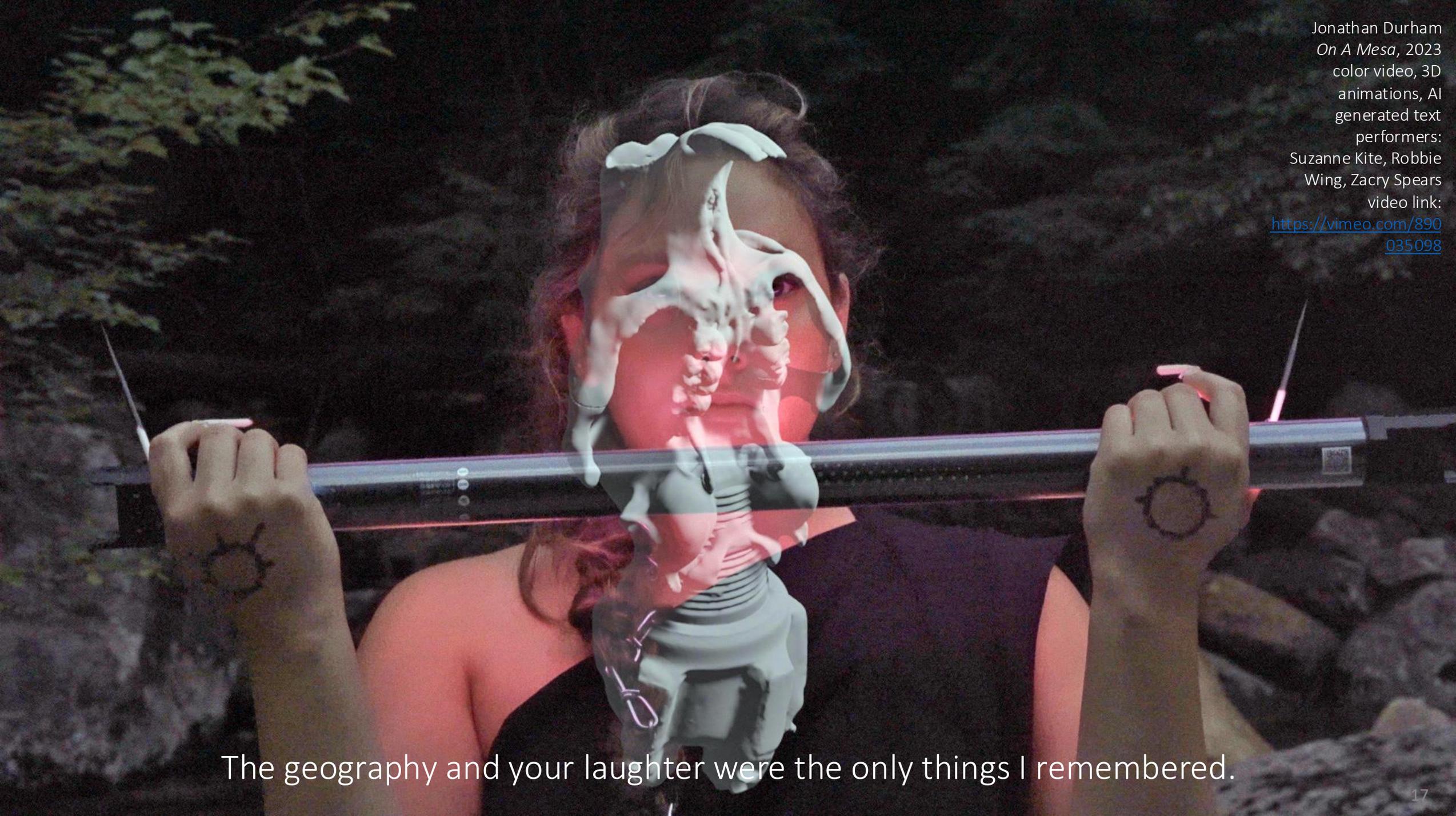


Jonathan Durham
Bit Corn, 2020

epoxy resin, dried corn,
pigments
16 x 8 x 6 inches

casts of fracking drill bits
two in edition of six

Jonathan Durham
On A Mesa, 2023
color video, 3D
animations, AI
generated text
performers:
Suzanne Kite, Robbie
Wing, Zacry Spears
video link:
<https://vimeo.com/890035098>



The geography and your laughter were the only things I remembered.



Jonathan Durham
On A Mesa, 2022
performance, audio, sculptures
Lost in America gallery, Tulsa,
OK, Feb 2022

Sculpture:
On A Mesa, 2022
clear vinyl backpack, T-nut
hardware, thermoplastic,
Inositol powder,
hard drive, porcupine quills
21 x 31 x 8 inches

Performers:
Jonathan Durham, Suzanne
Kite & Robbie Wing

The performance *On A Mesa* is based on the written account of a dream I had in 2018. The dream was rich in animal symbolism and deals with a spiritual vs industrial relationship to the land.
performance video link
<https://vimeo.com/735182881>



Jonathan Durham
On A Mesa, 2022 - ongoing

clear vinyl backpack, T-nut hardware,
thermoplastic, Inositol powder,
hard drive, porcupine quills
21 x 31 x 8 inches

sculpture for the performance
On A Mesa, 2022



Jonathan Durham
Potlatch 2014
tobacco, remote control
helicopter, oil clay, wax,
wood, aluminum
44 x 32 x 41 inches