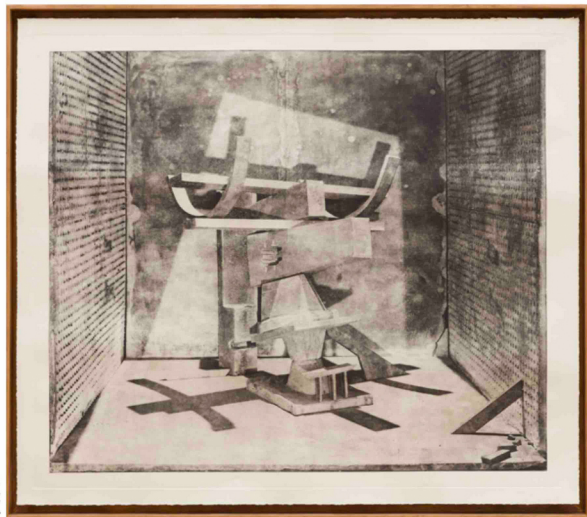


RODRIGO VALENZUELA

courtesy of the
Aya Geisberg
AGallery

Valenzuela's photographic series *Stature* features photogravures of assemblages made in the artist's studio—

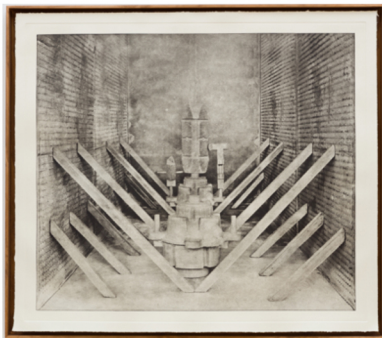
a photomechanical process where a copper plate is etched with an image from a photographic negative, and then inked and run through a printing press. The images mimic the language of documentary photography, but, at odds with their apparent gravitas, the concrete pieces are in fact cast from discarded consumer packaging. Their immobility, too, is an illusion—all the forms are carefully stacked and balanced, rather than cast as a whole or glued in place. Valenzuela's previous work in photography, video, and installation often involves narratives around immigration and the working class. The layering of social critique, art historical awareness, re-evaluation of the traditions of documentary photography, and a sense of play are all equally signature to his work.



Stature No. 1
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 2AP



Stature No. 6
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 2AP



Stature No. 5
Photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 2AP



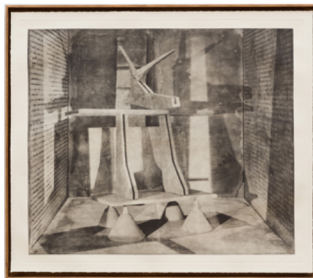
Stature No. 4
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 4AP

Valenzuela works across photography, video, and installation, merging his interest in art history, architecture, the concept of work, and the realities of laborers. He builds scenes in his studio, often working with simple building materials such as cinder blocks, pipes, wooden palettes, corrugated metal, and two-by-fours. The resulting monochrome photographs constantly shift between flatness and architectural space, and between documentary photography and fiction, encouraging an incessant yet pleasurable tension. His compositions resemble miniature ruins built from studio detritus, and are documentative of the artist's performance in the studio. Simultaneously, they clearly reference certain Modernist masters—be it Abstract-Expressionist painters or Minimalist sculptors—as well as Latin-American Brutalist architecture.



Stature No. 8
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 4AP

Valenzuela, born in Chile, lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. In 2004, he completed an Art History degree at the University of Chile, then worked in construction while making art over his first decade in the United States, completing a BA in Philosophy at Evergreen College and an MFA at the University of Washington. Currently, he is an assistant professor in the Department of Art at the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture. He has completed residencies at Light Work in Syracuse, NY; a Core Fellowship at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME; Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, NE; and the Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Painters and Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation (2017), Open Sessions Artist at The Drawing Center, NYC (2016-17), an Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award (2014), the Texas Contemporary Award (2014), the Stranger Genius Award (2013), and the University of California Artist Research Grant (2015).



Stature No. 10
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 2AP



Stature No. 7
photogravure
31" x 35 1/4"
edition of 8 plus 4AP