



WILLIAM CANNINGS

Suspense of Disbelief

January 10 - February 14, 2026

cris worley
FINE ARTS



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Suspense of Disbelief
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Cris Worley Fine Arts is pleased to announce, *Suspense of Disbelief*, a solo exhibition of new works by gallery artist William Cannings. This is Cannings' 10th solo exhibition with Cris Worley. The exhibition will run from January 10th - February 14th with an opening reception on Saturday, January 10th from 5-7pm. The artist will be in attendance.

William Cannings: *Suspense of Disbelief* marks a pivotal moment in the artist's more than twenty-year career, bringing together conceptual inquiry, representational references, and innovative abstract forms developed across multiple phases of his practice. Drawing its title from the literary trope, the exhibition invites viewers to temporarily set aside expectations of material behavior and instead encounter steel as pliant, buoyant, and deceptively light.

Cannings is renowned for his masterful manipulation of steel using heat and air—an inventive process that transforms an industrial material into inflated forms that appear swollen, soft, and nearly weightless. Each sculpture operates in a state of tension, balancing hardness and vulnerability, mass and levity, precision and seduction. Surface is central to this experience: creased, burnished, and animated by process, the works draw the viewer in before revealing the labor and control that underpin their illusion.

Process lies at the core of Cannings' practice and is inseparable from his dedication to teaching. A professor of sculpture at Texas Tech University for over twenty years, he is deeply committed to craft, technical fluency, and working with one's hands. His early experience in automotive shops fostered a command of tools and industrial processes that continues to shape his approach today. *Suspense of Disbelief* stands as both a culmination of this material investigation and a reaffirmation of the artist's belief in making as a form of thinking.



William Cannings
Levitate, 2025
inflated steel, acrylic
urethane paint, rubber valve
65h x 20w x 11d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot

William Cannings

Mandala, 2025

inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
80h x 77w x 10d in





William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings, *Wings*, 2025 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve 66h x 72w x 11d in, detail



William Cannings, *Wings*, 2025 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve 66h x 72w x 11d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings *Quadrifoglio I*, 2026 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve 19h x 20w x 8d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, Installation shot



William Cannings *Quadrifoglio II*, 2026 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve 19h x 19w x 14d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



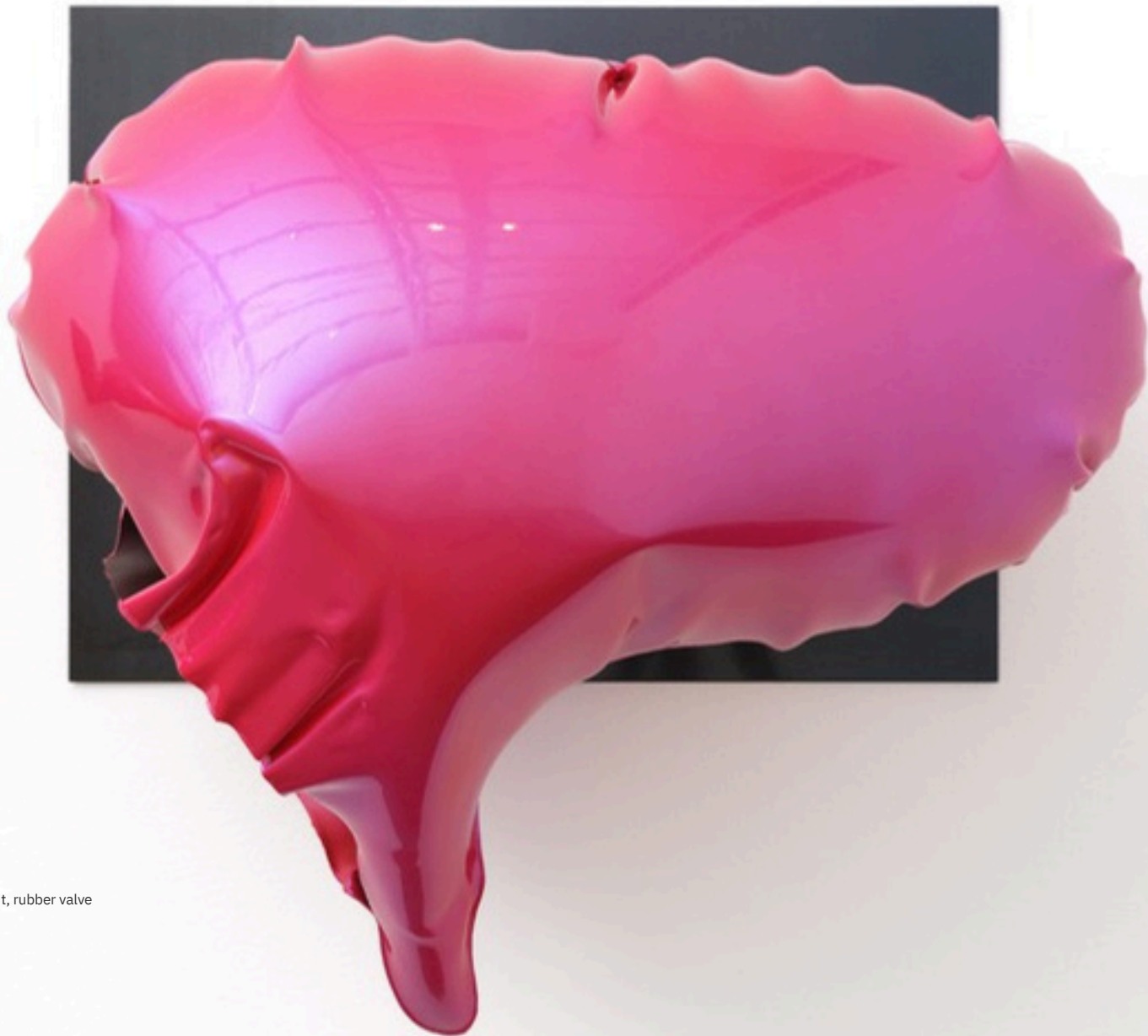
William Cannings
Free Speech VI, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
23h x 31w x 16d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings
Free Speech II, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
16h x 25w x 20d in



William Cannings
Free Speech III, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
22h x 22w x 17d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings

Plumb, 2026

inflated steel, neon acrylic urethane paint, rubber
valve 138h x 36w x 36d in



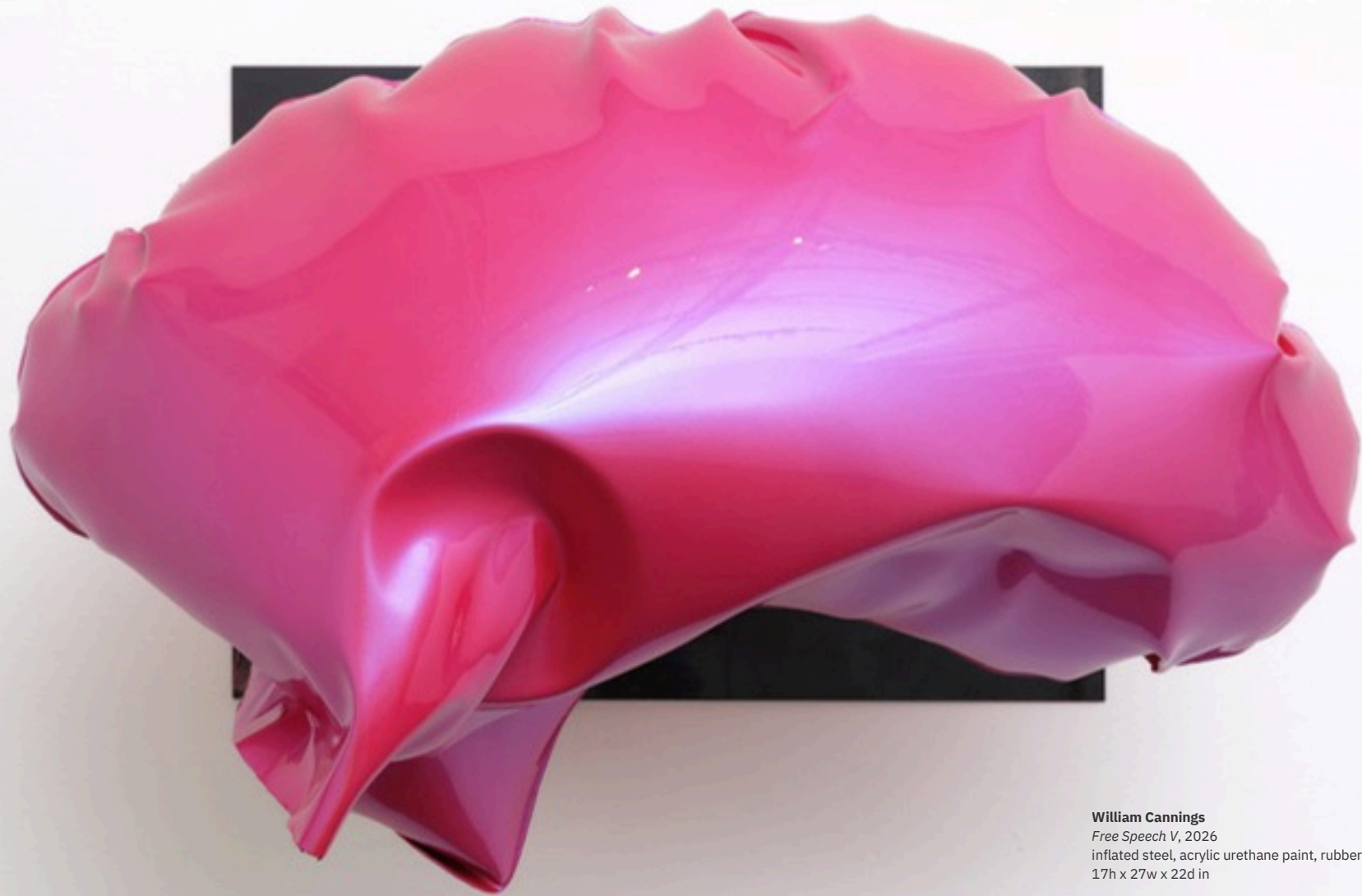
William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



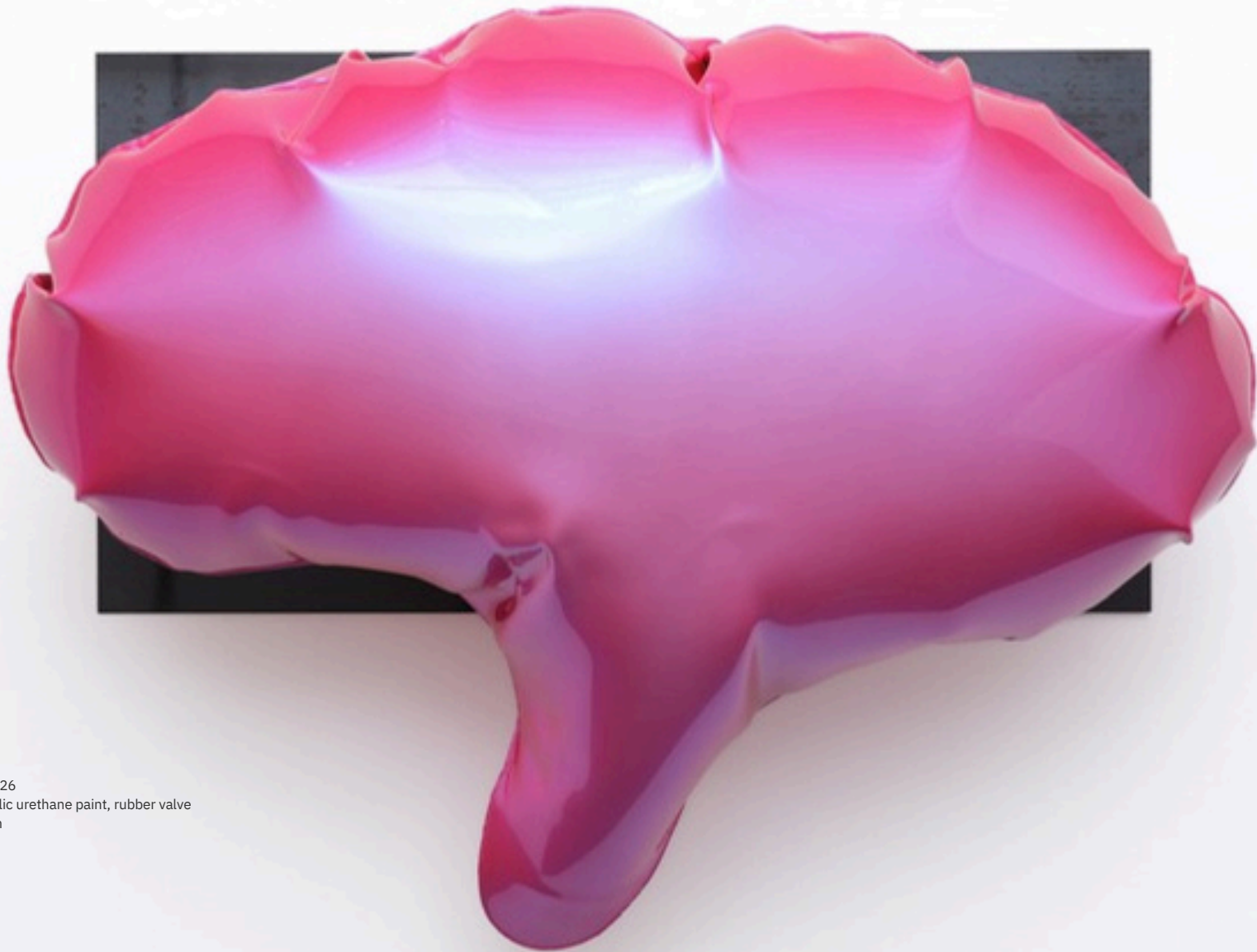
William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



William Cannings
Free Speech IV, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
19h x 29w x 14d in



William Cannings
Free Speech V, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
17h x 27w x 22d in



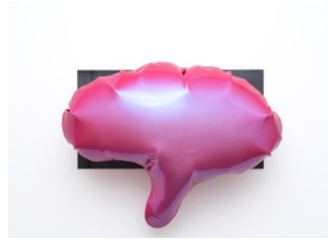
William Cannings
Free Speech VI, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
23h x 31w x 16d in



William Cannings, *Suspense of Disbelief*, installation shot



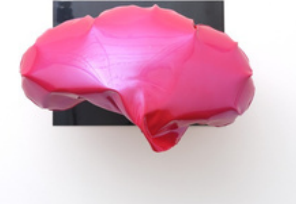
William Cannings
Quadrifoglio I, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
19h x 20w x 8d in
WC138
\$5,000



William Cannings
Free Speech VI, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
23h x 31w x 16d in
WC137
\$5,500



William Cannings
Free Speech III, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
22h x 22w x 17d in
WC134
\$5,500



William Cannings
Free Speech II, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
16h x 25w x 20d in
WC133
\$5,500



William Cannings
Free Speech V, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
17h x 27w x 22d in
WC136
\$5,500



William Cannings
Free Speech IV, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
19h x 29w x 14d in
WC135
\$5,500



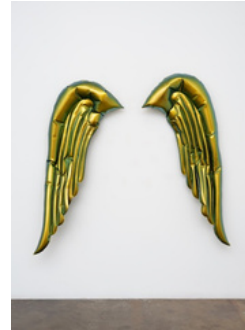
William Cannings
Free Speech I, 2026
inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
20h x 31w x 14d in
WC132
\$5,500



William Cannings
Plumb, 2026
inflated steel, neon acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
138h x 36w x 36d in
WC131
\$20,000



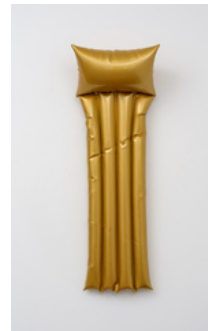
William Cannings
Quadrifoglio II, 2026
 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
 19h x 19w x 14d in
 WC130
 \$5,000



William Cannings
Wings, 2025
 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
 66h x 72w x 11d in
 WC129
 \$20,000



William Cannings
Mandala, 2025
 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
 80h x 77w x 10d in
 WC128
 \$16,000



William Cannings
Levitare, 2025
 inflated steel, acrylic urethane paint, rubber valve
 65h x 20w x 11d in
 WC127
 \$15,000

William Cannings - b. 1970

William Cannings is originally from Manchester, England and lives and works in Lubbock, Texas with his wife, artist Shannon Cannings. He received a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from Syracuse University. Cannings is Professor of Sculpture at Texas Tech University, where he has taught for over two decades.

Cannings exhibits widely throughout the United States, with exhibitions in New York, Miami, New Mexico, and across Texas. His work is represented in numerous prominent public collections and has been realized through major public art commissions, including a large-scale permanent installation at Gate 51 of Hobby Airport in Houston and a monumental outdoor sculpture at the Hall Sculpture Walk at the Hall Arts Hotel in downtown Dallas. Additional permanent installations can be found at the William P. Clements, Jr. Hospital at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and the HOLT CAT Headquarters in San Antonio.

In 2009, Cannings was selected as one of four artists for a solo exhibition at the Texas Biennial, receiving critical acclaim in *Art in America*. His work is also featured prominently in the canonical publication, *Texas Artists Today*, written by Catherine Ansporn.

