

# Lincoln Austin

## *LA WAS HERE*

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25 March – 11 April 2026

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Lincoln Austin's exhibition *L A Was Here* takes its title from an early childhood memory: at the age of eight, Lincoln covertly scratched his name into the door of a playground toilet, leaving a small but enduring inscription. The works in this exhibition expand Lincoln's initial mischievous impulse into a broader exploration of connection, permanence and the human desire to leave a mark.

"Belonging is a fundamental human need. As a species, we have developed myriad modes of communication within community (both words derived from the Latin *communis*—"common") attempting to achieve and sustain this sense of connection.

The most obvious—and ubiquitous—of these modes is the inventive code of written and spoken language. However, almost every human activity broadcasts information and meaning: our gestures, labour, and aesthetics all transmit coded messages within community.

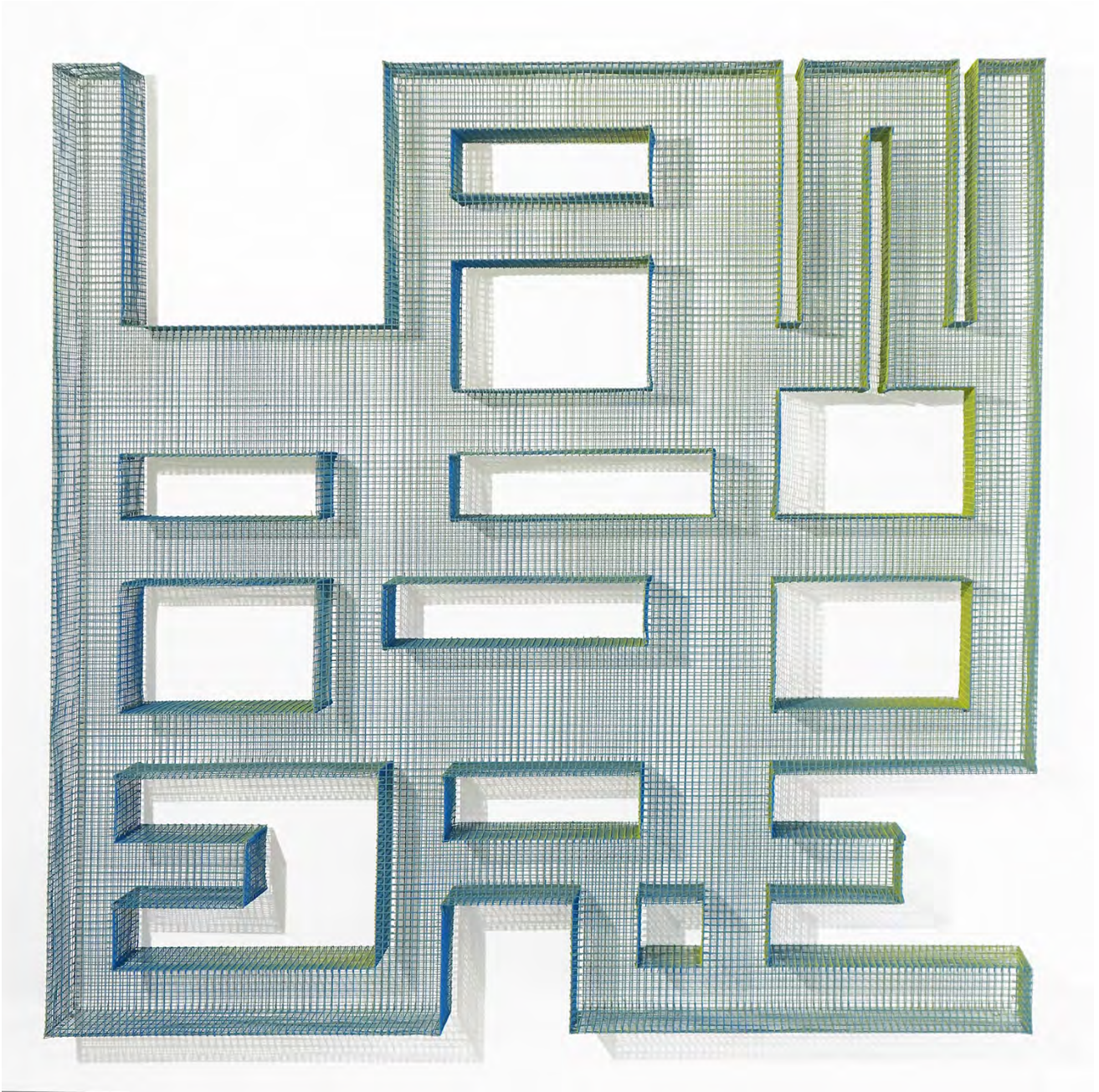
LA WAS HERE is a series of sculptural works exploring the material, symbolic, and transmissive potential of written language, employing the "English" code filtered through the playful aesthetic of a Queer Artist.

The words explored in these artworks are deliberate but uncomplicated: some elegant, some direct, others ambiguous, some puerile toilet-door humour. Developed into visual codes that give equal weight to word, form, material, and meaning, the letterforms are woven into puzzles of optical "noise." The artwork titles, borrowed from popular music of my youth open further layers of meaning. These 3D graffiti works, made in very specific circumstances and location (Mother Gail's backyard, in 'Nurlongga' on Kurna Country), are intended to function simultaneously as a communication channel and as noise or disruption within that channel.

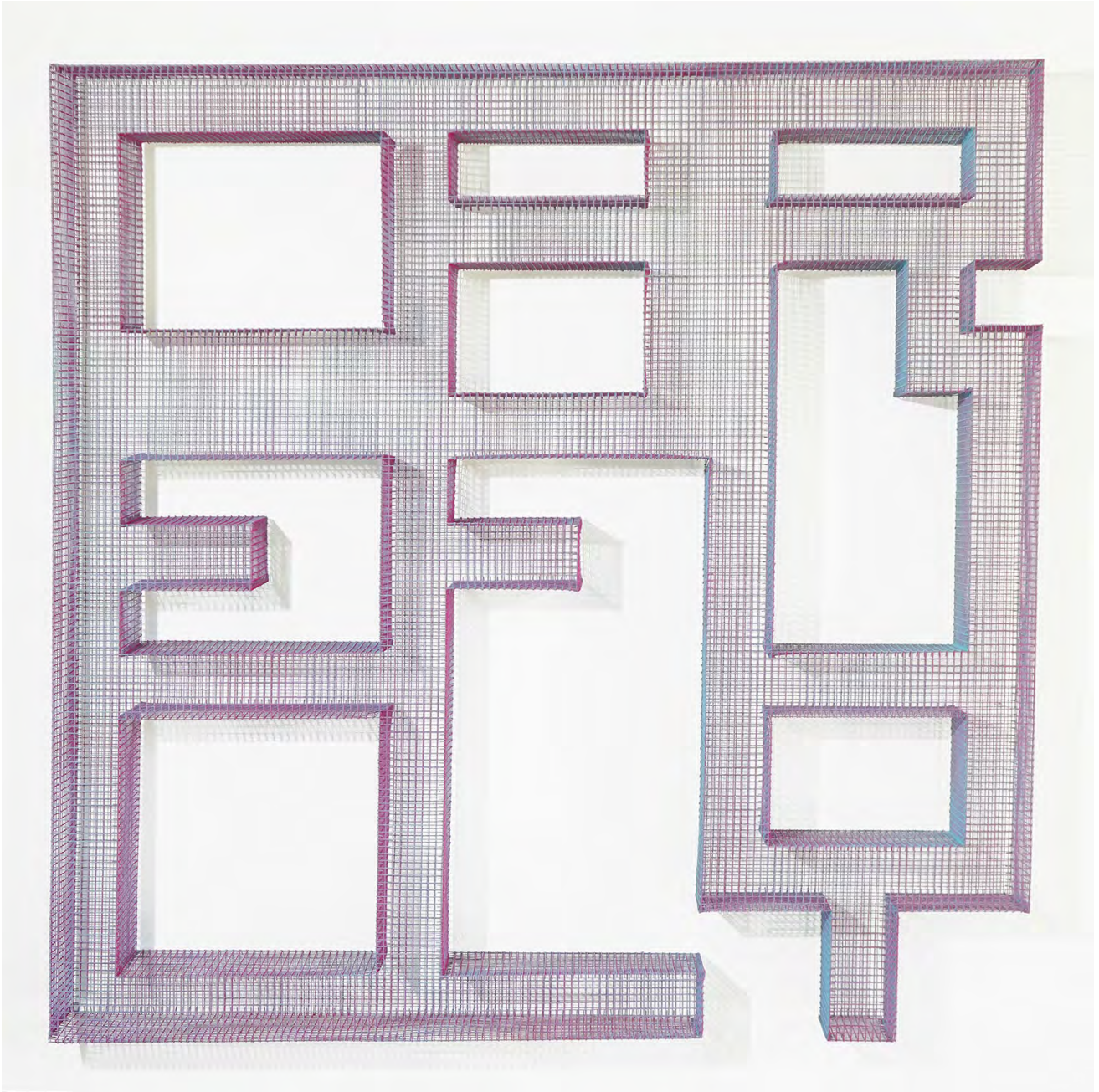
*L A Was Here*, once scratched thoughtlessly into a door, is now reframed through hindsight and comprehension, with a recognition of how poignant this statement of self-affirmation was—and remains." – Lincoln Austin, 2026

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lincoln Austin has exhibited widely nationally and internationally, including most recently with a large-scale installation "Lincoln Austin: The Weight of Experience" at Rockhampton Museum of Art (2025). In 2021, a 20-year survey exhibition, Lincoln Austin: The Space Between Us, was curated for Ipswich Art Gallery by Samantha Littley, Curator, Australian Art, QAGOMA. Austin has produced 18 large-scale public projects and has been awarded two prizes for Art and Architecture by the Australian Institute of Architects. Austin's works are held in many public and private collections, including Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art where Austin is currently the subject for 'Art Box for Kids' (until May 2026).



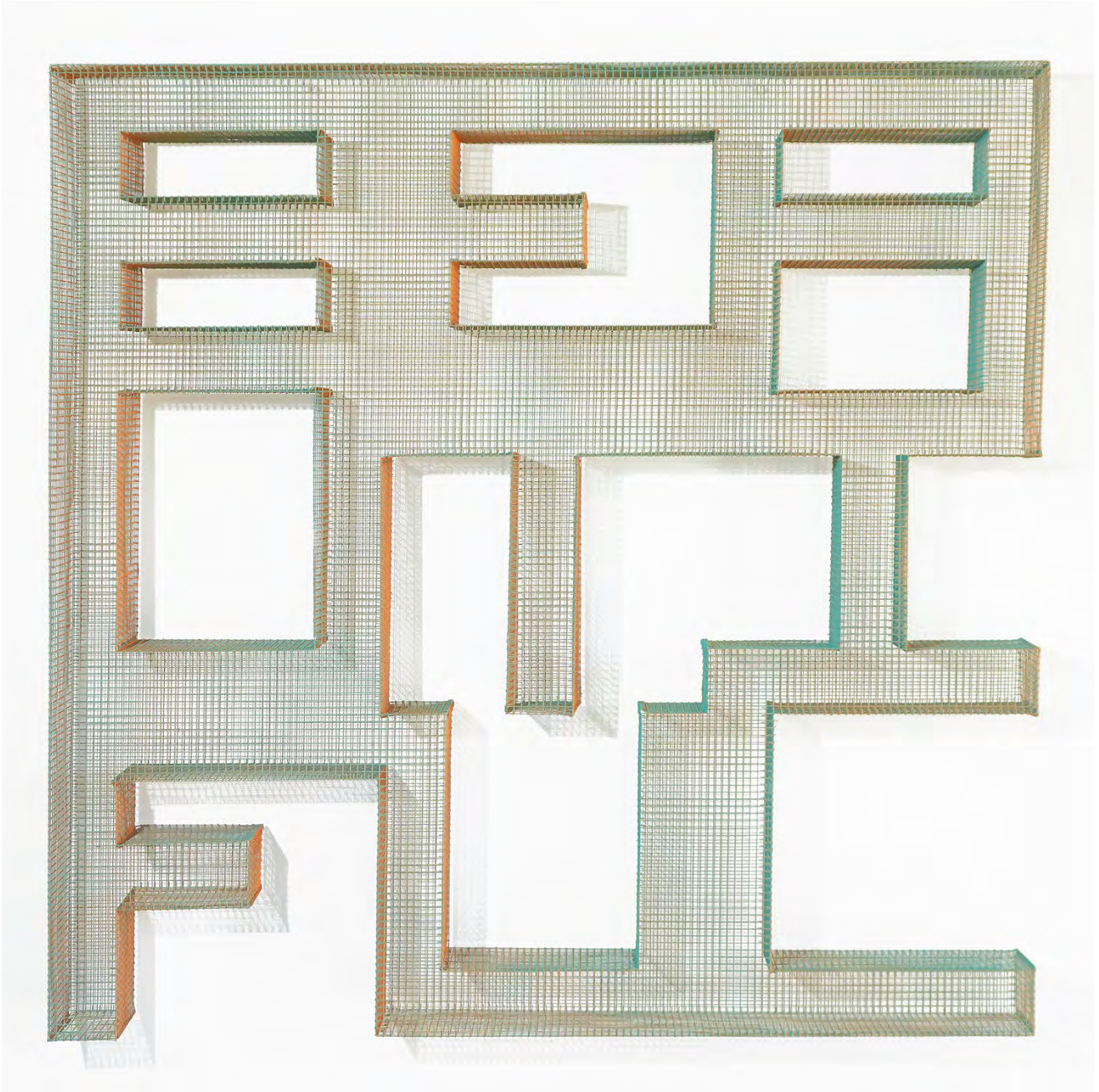
Lincoln Austin  
L A WAS HERE 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



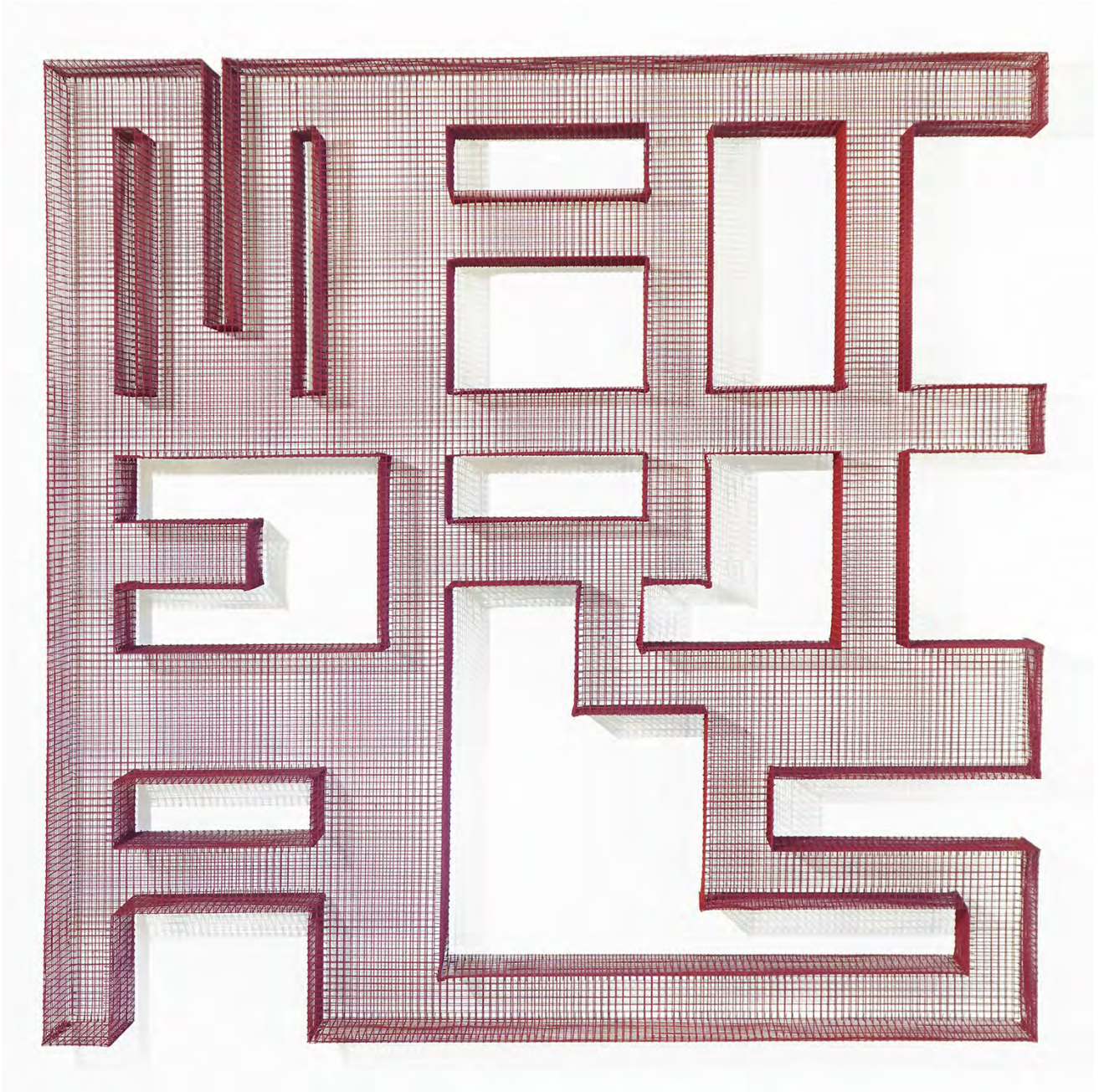
Lincoln Austin  
CAREFULLY 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



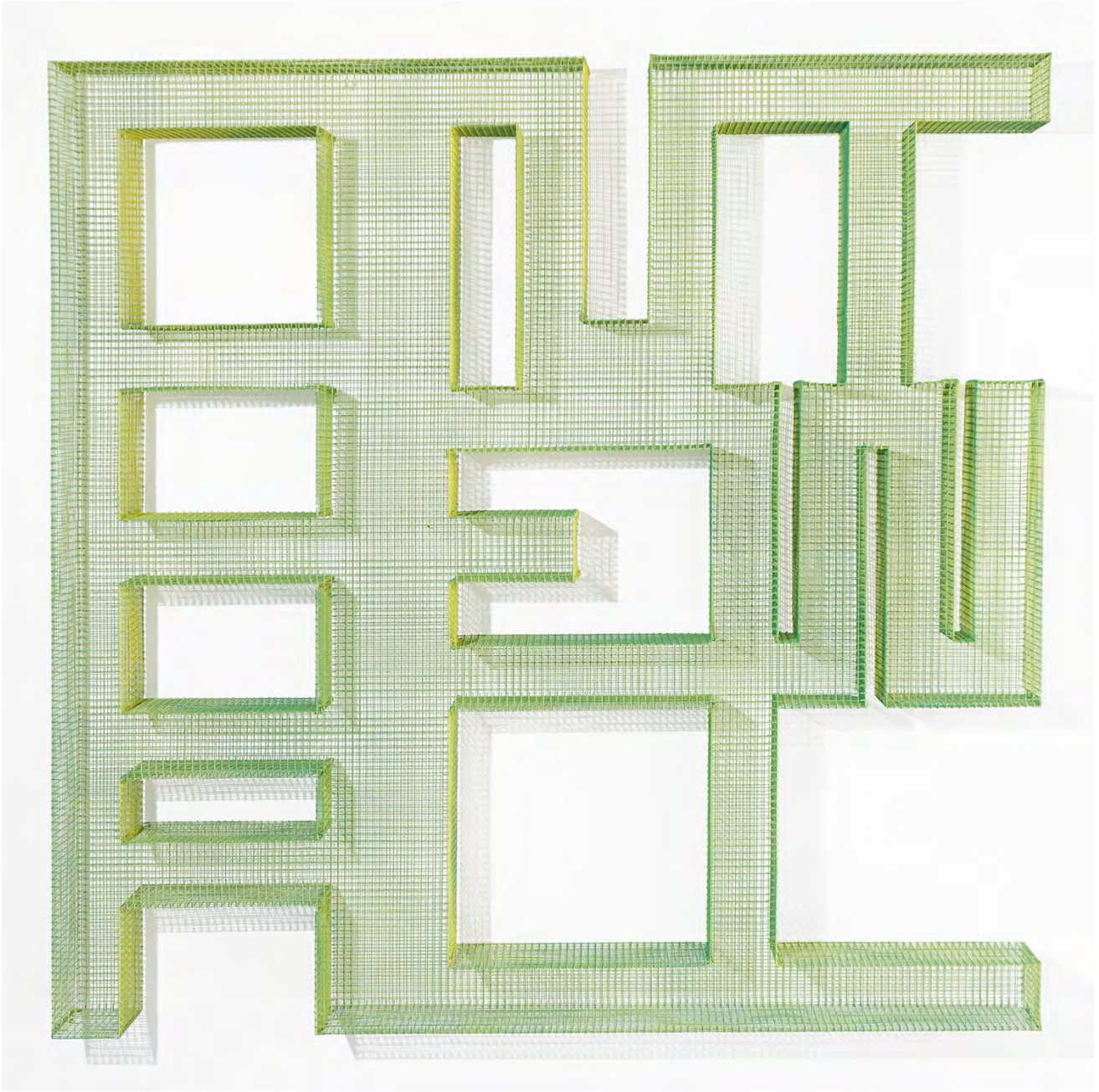
Lincoln Austin  
ADJUSTING 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
BEAUTIFUL 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
MATERIALS 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
ON THE WALL 2025  
galvanised steel mesh  
86.0 x 86.0 x 12.0 cm



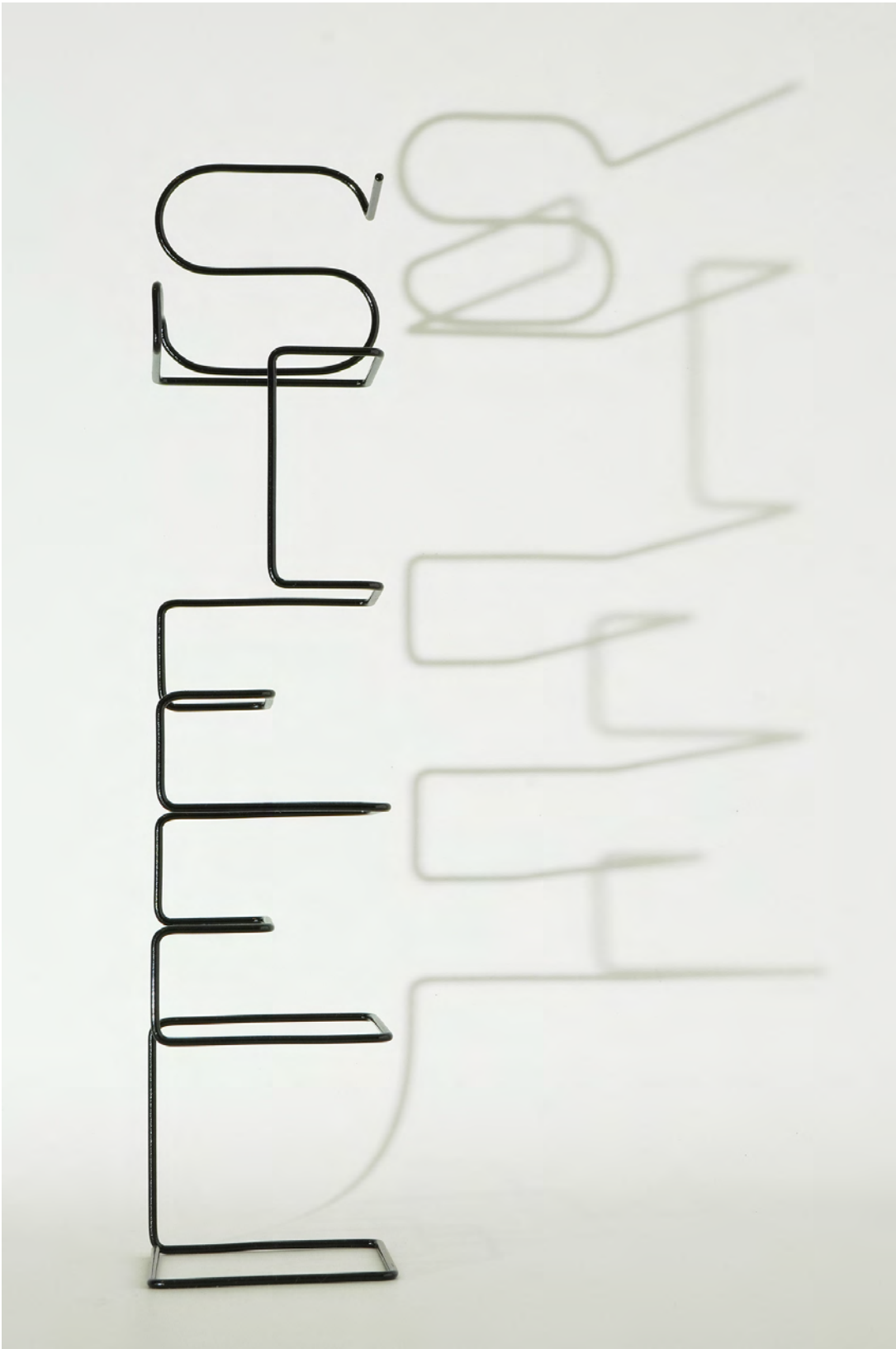
Lincoln Austin  
L A WAS HERE (large) 2026  
2026 copper, silver solder  
30.0 x 40.0 x 10.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
L A WAS HERE (little) 2026  
copper, tin solder, edition of 3  
15.0 x 20.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Pull up to the bumper 2025  
copper, silver solder, ammonia patina, native bees wax  
66.0 x 8.0 x 8.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Enjoy the silence 2026  
galvanised steel, epoxy paint  
39.0 x 8.0 x 8.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
The mercy seat 2025  
brass, silver solder  
65.0 x 8.0 x 8.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Music for strings, percussion and celesta (movement III) 2025  
brass, silver solder  
48.0 x 8.0 x 8.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Here comes your man 2026  
brass, silver solder  
50.0 x 8.0 x 8.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
RESPECT 2025  
aluminium  
52.0 x 12.0 x 12.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Boys don't cry 2026  
aluminium  
46.0 x 20.0 x 12.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Ain't no love (ain't no use) 2026  
aluminium  
46.0 x 15.0 x 15.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
What's going on 2025  
copper, tin solder, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
38.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Real wild child (wild one) 2026  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
40.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
The Queen is dead 2025  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
40.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Hit that perfect beat (boy) 2025  
copper, tin solder, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
40.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



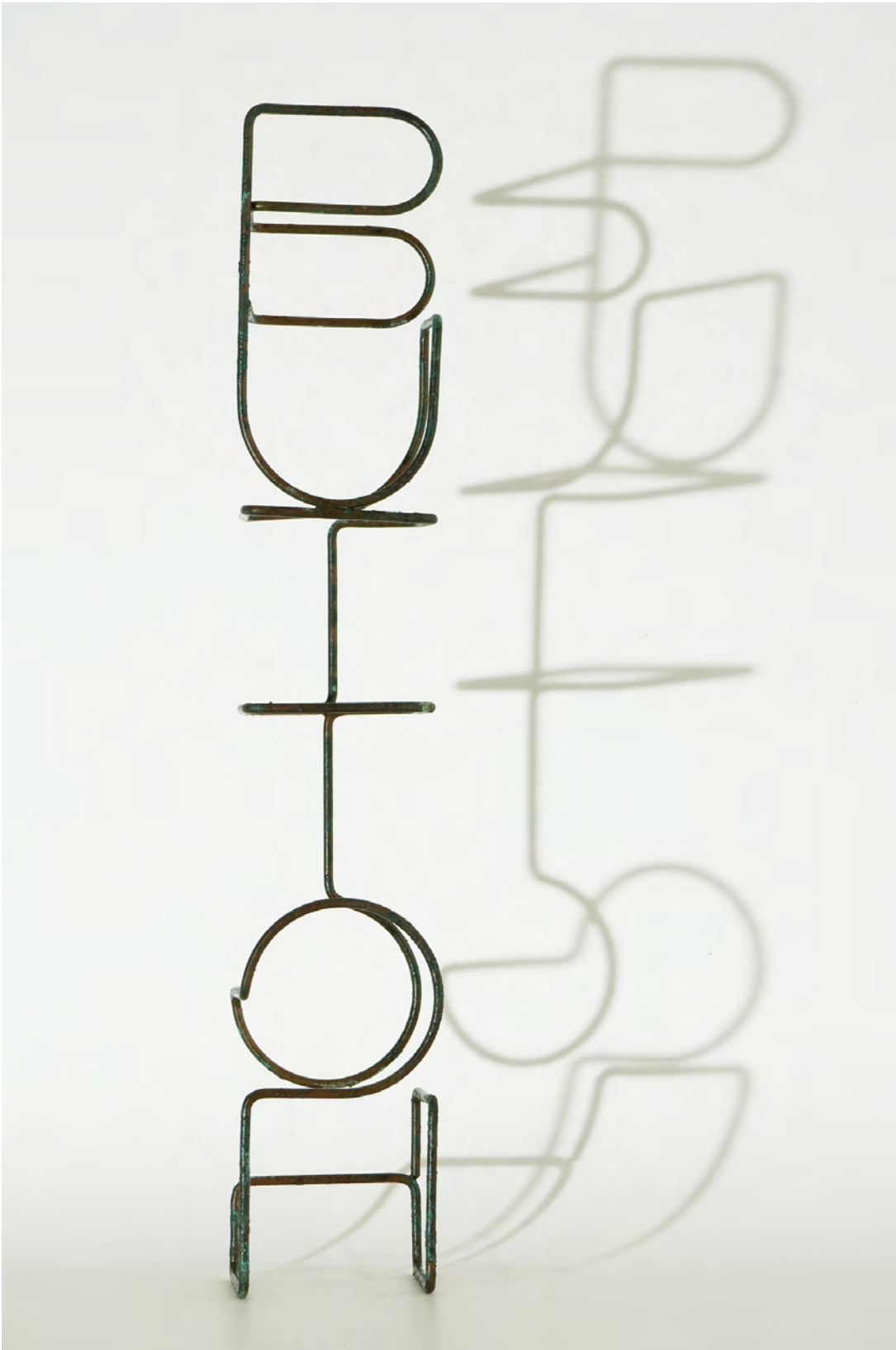
Lincoln Austin  
The house that Jack built 2025  
copper, tin solder, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
38.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



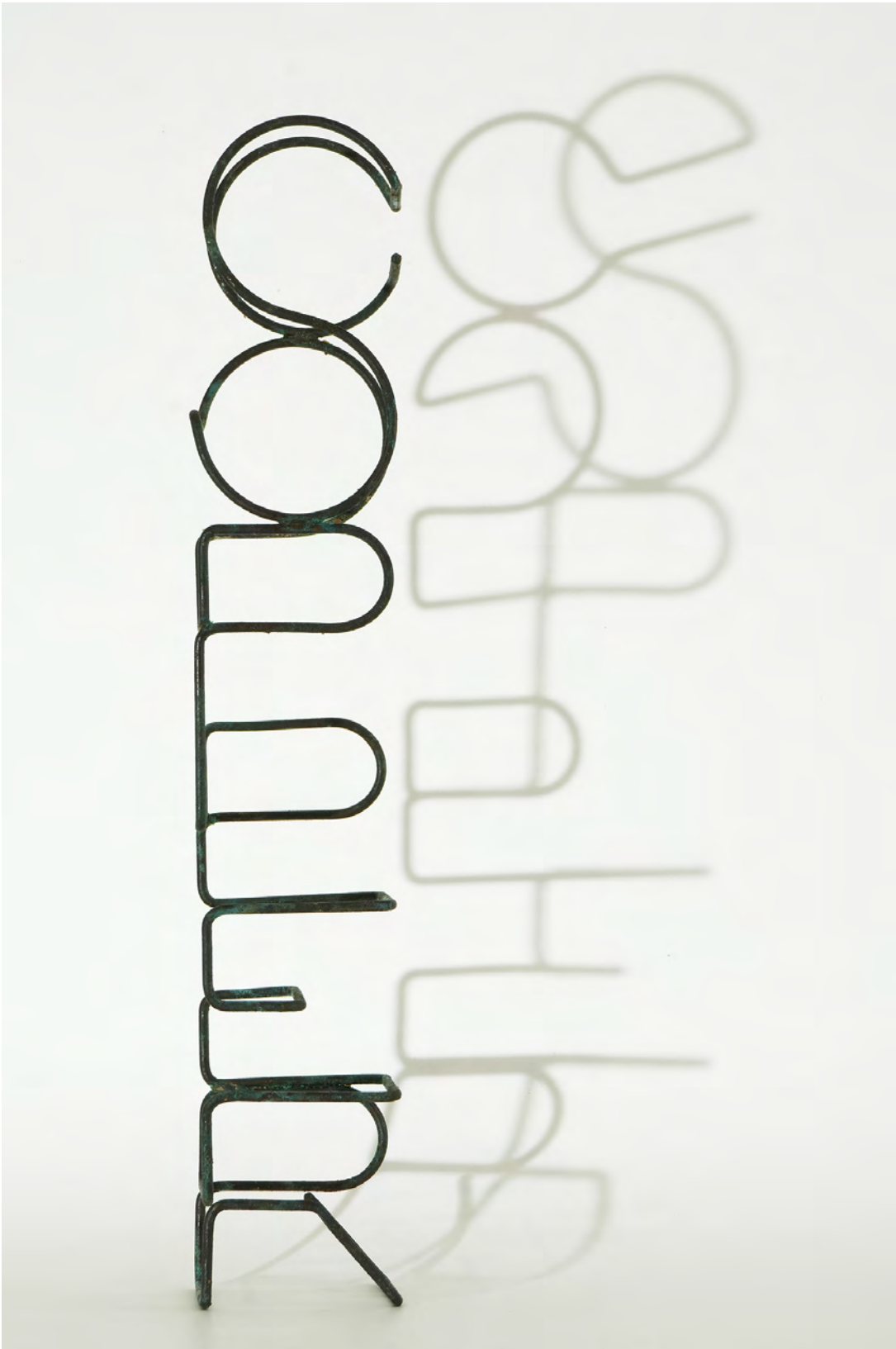
Lincoln Austin  
You make me feel (mighty real) 2025  
copper, tin solder, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
35.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



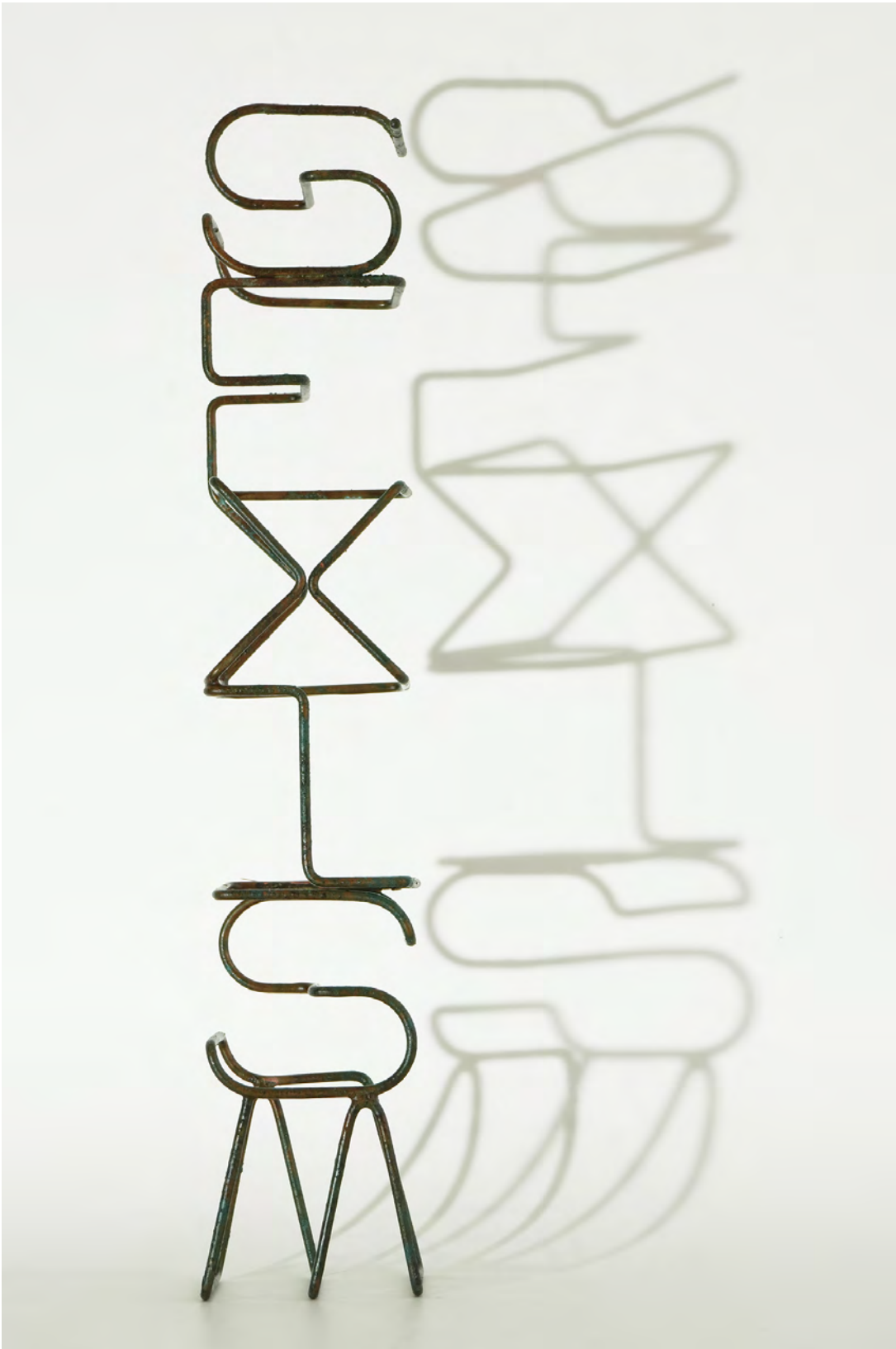
Lincoln Austin  
Everybody in the place (Fairground mix) 2025  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
35.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
The tide is high 2025  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
30.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



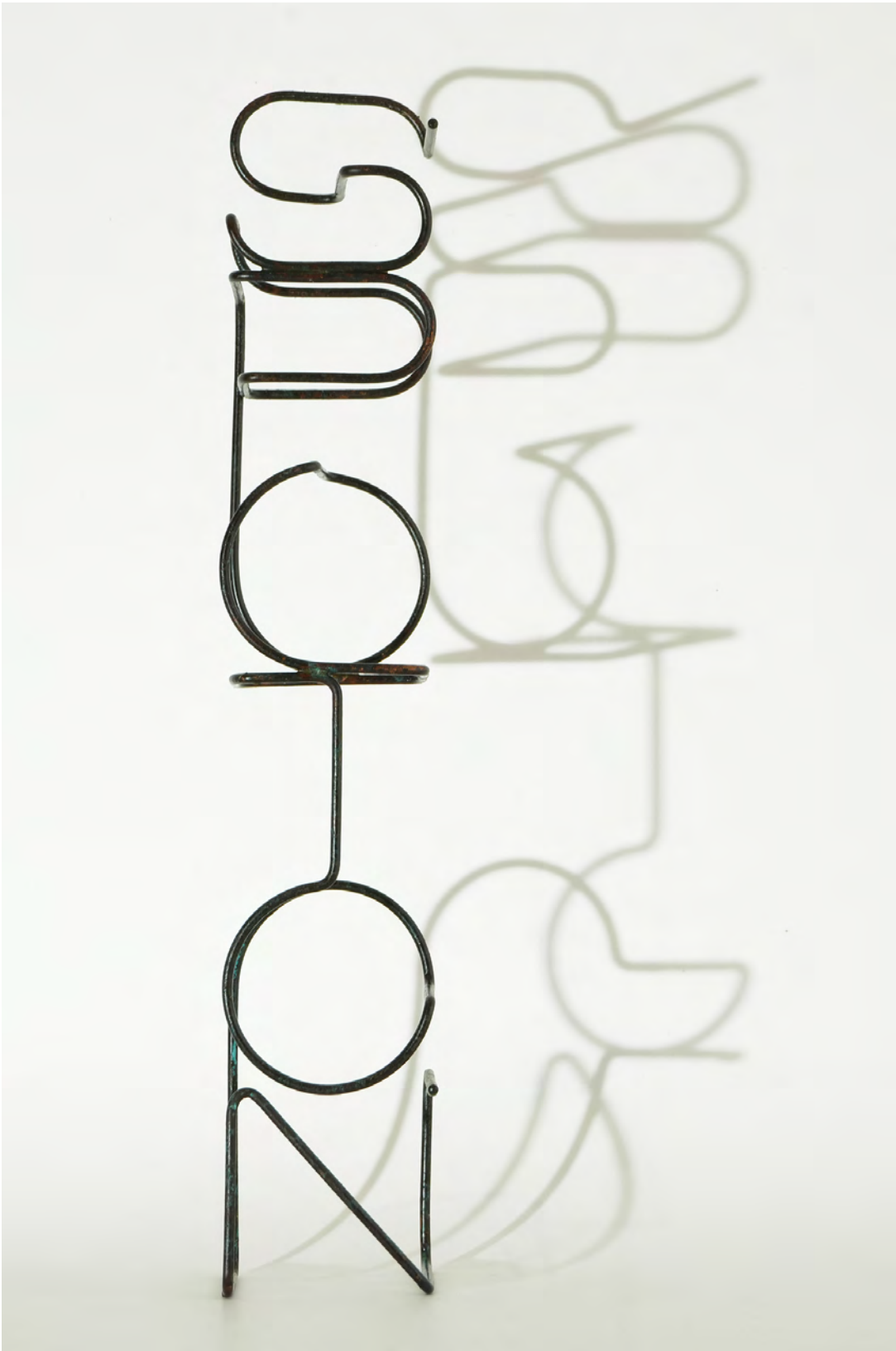
Lincoln Austin  
The revolution will not be televised 2026  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
30.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Kool thing 2026  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
30.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
I'm afraid of Americans 2025  
copper, tin solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
30.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



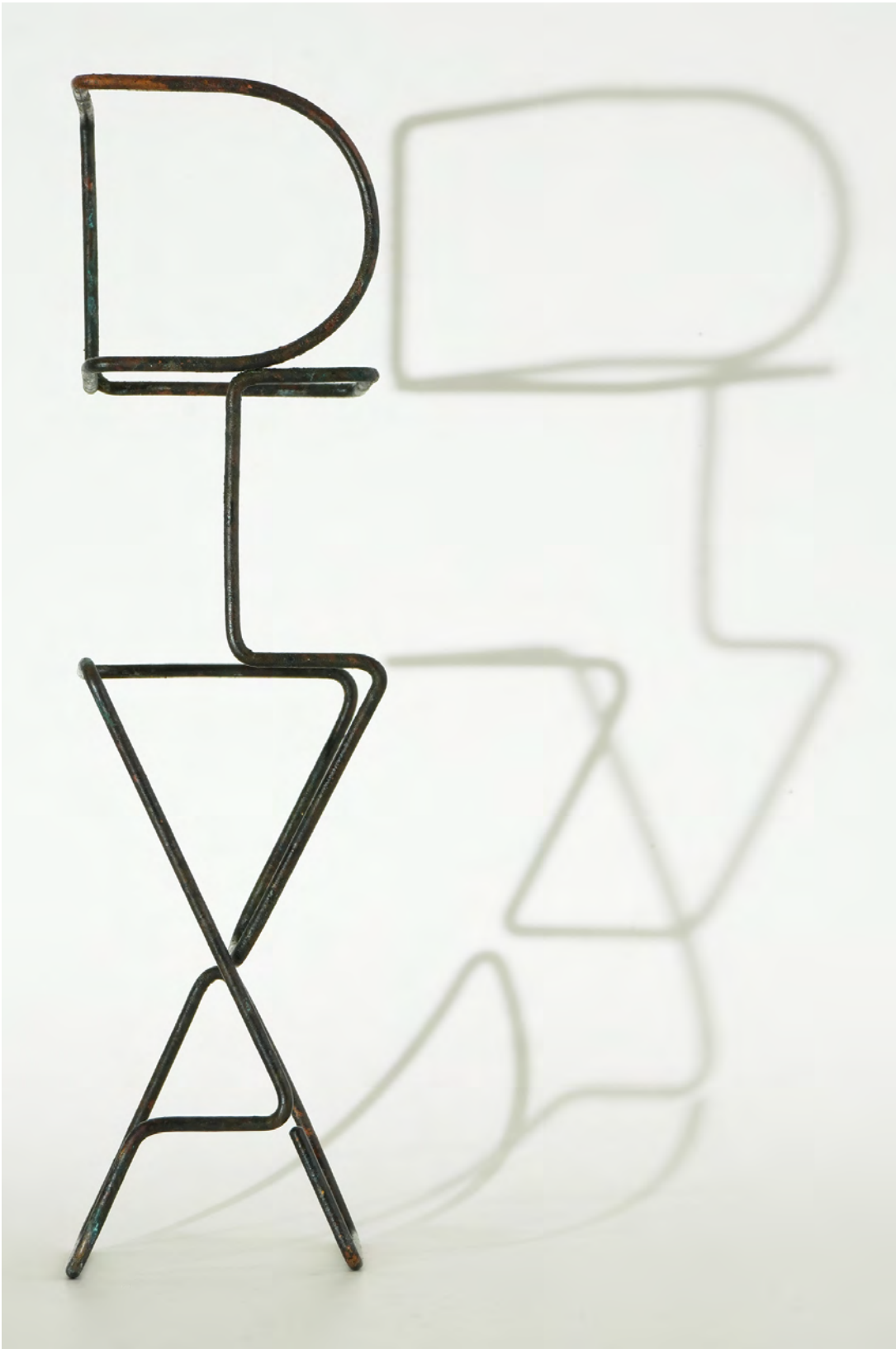
Lincoln Austin  
Born Slippy 2025  
copper, tin solder, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
30.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Detachable penis 2025  
copper, tin Solder, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
25.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
I wanna dance with somebody (who loves me) 2025  
copper, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
25.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
That's the way love goes 2025  
copper, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
20.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Nothing compares 2 U 2025  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
12.0 x 3.0 x 3.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
I got life (mother) 2026  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
12.0 x 3.0 x 3.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Human behaviour 2025  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
20.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Boys in town (Get me out of here) 2025  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax,  
edition of 3  
20.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
(Let's go) Outside 2025  
copper, ammonia patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
15.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Don't mess with a missionary man 2026  
copper, urea patina, native bee's wax, edition of 3  
15.0 x 5.0 x 5.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
Especially for you 2026  
sterling silver, edition of 3  
15.0 x 3.0 x 3.0 cm



Lincoln Austin  
When will I be famous? 2026  
sterling silver, edition of 3  
12.0 x 3.0 x 3.0 cm

# *L A Was Here*

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Written by Lincoln Austin

a tiny hand  
grasps a rusty nail  
aping the gestures  
of those who came before  
crafting a text(ure)  
an information sensation  
scribed in secret  
into the surface  
of a playground toilet door  
defiant self-actualization  
broadcasting  
into the future  
L A WAS HERE

this child soon learns  
the world of words  
on the page  
on the tongue  
in the ear  
in the mind  
can achieve  
relieve  
and deceive

what do you really mean?  
what do I really mean?

conversation  
a performance  
the present situation  
played out in the light  
of our common conditioning  
mimicking various codes  
we teach each other  
meaning  
in symbols and signs  
of the established matrix

every word holds a truth  
narrating the condition  
in which it  
and its transmitter  
currently exist

from a granny flat  
in Gail's backyard  
on Kurna Yerta  
Nurlongga  
the bend in the river  
a psychic reunion  
with youthful exuberance  
terrifying desires  
boogie nights  
experiments  
and violence  
a location of lessons in language learned

these words here  
forged and formed  
cultured or course  
offer understanding  
and misunderstanding  
secreted  
into familiar material  
extracted  
by Grandma's  
Cousin Jacks and Cousin Jennys

the sleek mystique of words  
once thought too slippery to grasp  
Lincoln is learning  
to unwrap and unravel  
to read backwards  
to listen sideways  
to speak up

Jan Murphy Gallery

For further information  
or to enquire about  
an artwork please call  
the gallery

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