

by michael  
anthony  
garcía

# morfología

in consideration of and with the artists' and curator's work in

after carolee: tender and fierce





# *Morfología*

by Michael Anthony García  
in consideration of and in dialog with  
*After Carolee: Tender and Fierce*  
January 7, 2021 - July 18, 2021  
at Artpace, San Antonio

The work presented here was created in response to the artists' and guest curator's work in the creation of the exhibition.

**The artists of *After Carolee: Tender and Fierce***

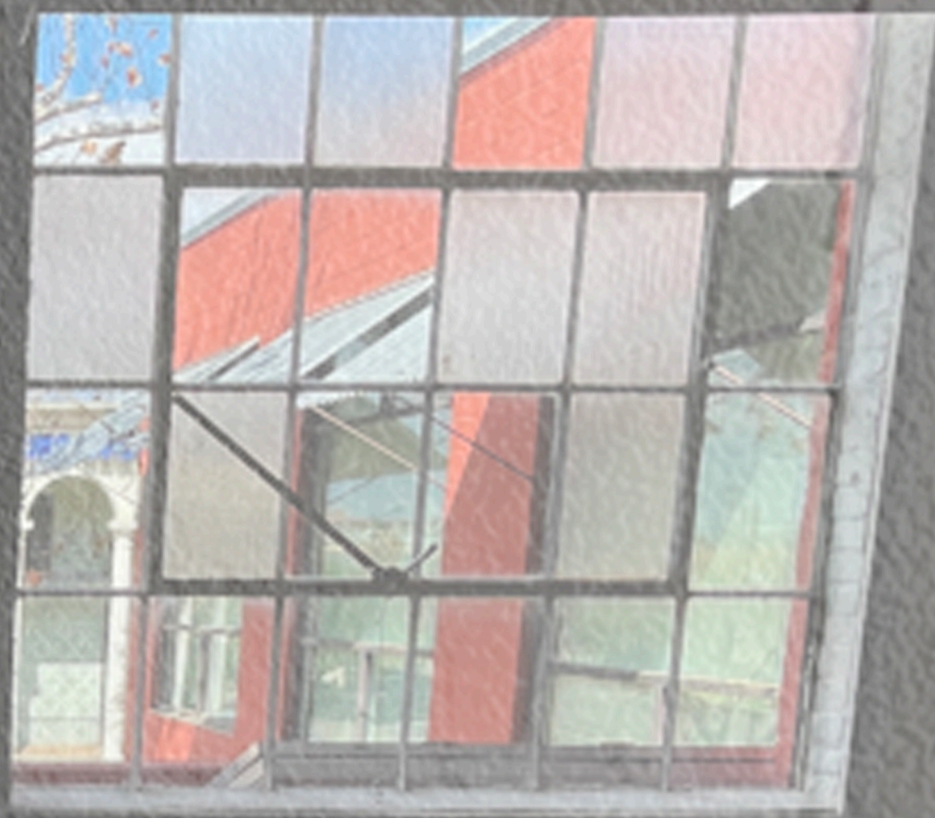
Amber Bemak & Nadia Granados, Kristen Cochran, Liss LaFleur,  
Yuliya Lanina, Beili Liu, Paloma Mayorga, Virginia Lee Montgomery,  
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud, Lovie Olivia, SAINTLORRAINE (Britt Lorraine  
& Kristy Perez), Megan Solis, and Julia Claire Wallace

The artists in the exhibition own the rights to the images of their work in the video and this book. Photos of architectural elements by Michael Anthony García. All poems by Michael Anthony García except "We Fold and Unfold" by Kristy Perez of SAINTLORRAINE.

*Morfología* was commissioned by Artpace  
and guest curator, Annette DiMeo Carlozzi, in 2021.

## **With much appreciation to:**

The artists of *After Carolee: Tender and Fierce*  
Annette DiMeo Carlozzi  
Artpace  
Pamela Sneed  
Veronica Casado Hernandez



form so formidable that its resilience  
can be distilled down to an essence  
heavier than any metal  
on the table of elements

so powerful in its own systems  
that its kinetic drive  
carves a deep rut in the blonded sand  
reimagining itself in a natural world

labor  
pleasure  
care  
whisper each other's names  
under their breath  
but with a solid force  
just as organs glance at themselves  
knowingly

its movements can mobilize  
document  
decree  
and act  
direct  
and choreograph  
a sexual moan





hand in hand  
fingers interlaced

like the potent pages of time

dynamic dilettante  
reinvigorated by laborious  
appendages  
cured through  
repetitive  
motion

cured through  
repetitive  
flow

cured through  
repetitive  
transformation







the archeology of one's own body  
that inherits its own complexities  
through methodologies that  
then buck up against  
reason's broad chest

gaze upon that cool reckoning  
good digit indicating direction and forethought  
gaining breath from out of a thin line of rage

carry it on the roof of the mouth that  
cocksure anger that  
calls to be mapped out and played

what we celebrate in that queer excavation  
when data, scores, marks, layer up to  
where the domestic means more than before



the moon's blonde marrow  
from a pale pastel pallet  
born of stone  
reflects the sun's distant fire

she is wrapped in ash  
grayed with time  
as grandmother's hair  
whose spirit  
holds her shoulder  
while the midwife  
coaxes it out

and if the thunder  
and the moon  
were somehow  
more than friends

that marrow would  
not need coaxing  
but emerge  
to fling  
itself  
at the sun's distant fire  
of her own volition





when chasms  
are to be fathomed  
what does  
the Mariana Trench  
have to say

that gap between seconds  
and pause between  
inhale  
and out again

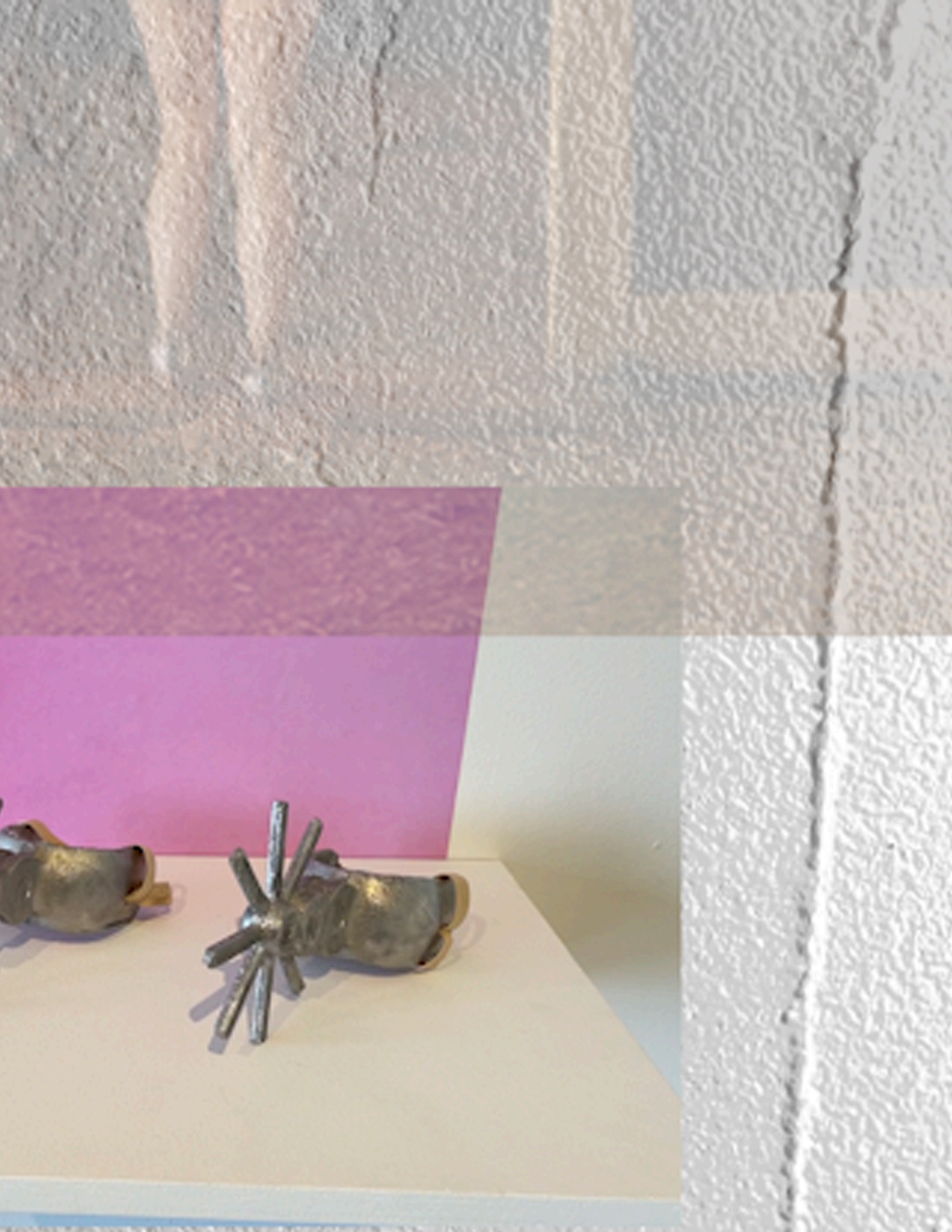
---

---

strained  
trachea  
end to end in a  
long tube of breath  
reaching back onto itself  
to conduct  
a pulse  
  
that beats  
  
in  
out







a twitch  
a glance  
a skin that shudders on its own

switch it  
dance it  
stare it down  
without blinking  
as if the muscles in our eyes  
are the strongest  
are what define  
our dominance  
and speak with more syllables than  
words ever could

a carve  
a line  
a foolish man thinking  
grace will lie down on a whim

starve it  
brine it  
preserve its sweetness in a rigid bounce  
while doing away  
with  
old  
wives  
tales





testimony as pulse on sinews	testimony as pulse on sinews
spanning fibrous tissues and forms	spanning fibrous tissues and forms
pushing realms of inspiration	pushing realms of inspiration
fluid with grief and growth	fluid with grief and growth

liberations found via	liberations found via
feline confidant	feline confidant
and tiny parcels of portraiture	and tiny parcels of portraiture
personified	personified
across distances of	across distances of

small tokens of	small tokens of
-----------------	-----------------

gratitude	gratitude
peeking around a corner	peeking around a corner
to smile	to smile





delicate flora  
stamen glancing  
to absorb from sister's meditations  
laid out on the slide

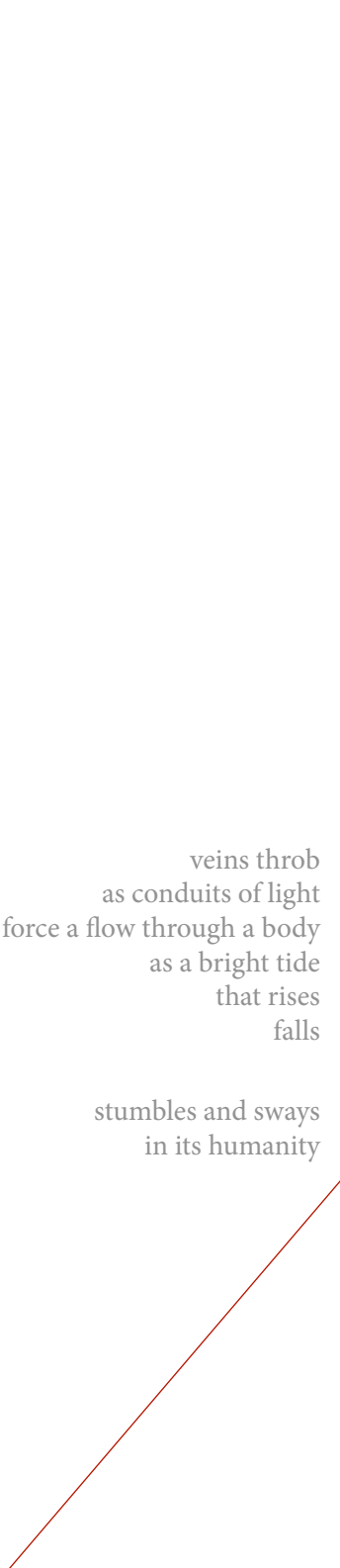
feeling at boundaries  
to embrace the dirt  
in mouths-full  
seeking solace in the glitches  
the fragments of the physical world  
as the corporeal hides from your eye

must touch that desire  
must consent to exchange  
the strategy of fragility  
the release found in decomposition

encased in vibration incarnate  
glass bed  
lens to look  
through  
to the surface below







veins throb  
as conduits of light  
and force a flow through a body  
as a bright tide  
that rises  
falls

stumbles and sways  
in its humanity

forehead gripping at nothing  
opens it palm  
falls back to let  
closed eyes see  
things they couldn't even  
fathom in the  
waking  
world  
apart from one another  
without something to focus on

these tense hands  
open their palms  
that grasped  
at anything  
to stop  
the  
fall



WE FOLD

AND UNFOLD

ON OUR WAY TO EACH OTHER

WE FALL INTO OUR OWN CENTRE

WE UNFOLD

AND FALL INTO

EACH OTHER

HERE.



(living, breathing)

(marking territory)

(claiming self)

(giving)

(loving)

(beginning, ending)

---

text above by Kristy Perez of SAINTLORRAINE

pages unravel  
to reveal scribbled  
messages that flowed faster  
than the hand could record

pages join at the spine  
hinting at what is written  
on the other side  
turn and caress as  
they fall into each other  
cause a breeze  
like warm sighs

pages so large  
the places where they overlap  
dig into white gypsum  
and evaporate  
the spaces  
in between









numb limbs wrapped in cold glory  
shaking as the daughter of shivers

morph to stand up to the suppressed

winter looks down to lust after the landscape  
getting lost in her own drifts  
to crawl through that  
cold  
wet

numb limbs wrapped in cold glory  
shaking as the daughter of shivers

finally at the voyeur's foot  
to claim  
identity  
like it's a flag in that very snow

morph to stand up to the suppressed

winter looks down to lust after the landscape  
getting lost in her own drifts  
to crawl through that  
cold  
wet

numb limbs wrapped in cold glory  
shaking as the daughter of shivers

finally at the voyeur's foot  
to claim  
identity  
like it's a flag in that very snow

morph to stand up to the suppressed

winter looks down to lust after the landscape  
getting lost in her own drifts  
to crawl through that  
cold  
wet

finally at the voyeur's foot  
to claim  
identity  
like it's a flag in that very snow





just as stagnations pulls  
at vibrant tissues  
natural in their vibrant struggle

just as foliage  
proud in her corporeal  
green  
finds her limits  
in growth  
stems from  
gravity's pulsating urge

just as lines exist  
to delineate what distinguishes one  
from another

she pulls back  
her structures  
recoils and mutates to  
find power  
in an intimate position  
in a glen  
and a claustrophobic  
self  
embrace







raw materiality  
moves with bold

creeping along  
the mainstream  
along a capitulating margin

when rhythms misalign  
the intensity of  
a brazen white femininity  
and how that form is framed

paired

with an ambivalence

paralleled

with a different history  
gazing down at  
a drawn line

using a black body  
to nudge out a  
small crevice  
to nestle  
make a space

beyond the pale

in  
between

the crossroads of heartbeats





### Curole's Room

It is a space of resource and remembrances about Curole Schneemann (1939-2016), pioneering feminist artist, and 1959 participant in the International Artist-in-Residence program.

Here, we share images and documents from the Artspace archive alongside memories from some of Curole's friends and colleagues associated with her time in San Antonio. We also include texts written by artists, the press, and other artists about Curole's particular influence, her unique personality, and her remarkable career.

Curole's Room was developed by Anne DeMaio Grezzo in collaboration with Laura August with support from Artspace ITM.

### Cuarto de Curole

Es un espacio de recursos y memoranzas sobre Schneemann (1939-2016), feminista pionera y participante en el Programa Internacional de Artista en Residencia.

Aquí compartimos imágenes y documentos extraídos del Artspace, así como algunos amigos y colegas asociados con su tiempo en San Antonio. También incluimos textos escritos por artistas, la prensa y otros artistas sobre la particular influencia, su personalidad y su extraordinaria carrera.

El Cuarto de Curole fue desarrollado por Anne DeMaio Grezzo en colaboración con Laura August con apoyo de Artspace ITM.





as textures go  
tenderness fools the foe  
as to the fierceness that lies in wait  
below  
tissues  
born to bare  
witness to the world

as sensations go  
tenderness = readiness  
aware of what came before  
to cause it  
prepared to do what is needed  
from the next moment on

as emotions go  
tenderness begets  
kindness which begets  
understanding

tenderness is wrapped in bone  
and flesh  
and networks of systems that  
collaborate to  
inspire fortitude