

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

**Liz Miller**

*Structural Paradigms*

March 27 – May 2, 2020

Opening Reception: Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public, Artist in attendance



Image: Liz Miller, *Structural Malaise 02* (detail), 2020, PVC pipe, assorted rope, zip ties, and other mixed media, 78 x 48 x 10 in. (198.1 x 121.9 x 25.4 cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to welcome back Good Thunder, Minnesota-based artist and 2020 McKnight Fellow Liz Miller for her second solo presentation with the gallery. *Structural Paradigms* will feature 14 dazzlingly colorful wall works that honor the historical cultural practice of knotting, while redefining the potential of common rope as artistic medium.

Laborious construction and an adept compositional sense are the hallmarks of Liz Miller’s quasi-architectural works, effortlessly giving rise to awe and curiosity. In her sculptural wall works, Miller’s coiled and bound loops of patterned cords and ropes tumble in, out, and over each other in harmonious disarray. As is indicative of Miller’s overall practice, fastidious attention to detail and an artist’s level of obsession bring authority and transformative power to otherwise mundane materials.

Miller aligns her work in the historical context of rope and knotting across cultures throughout history, a practice often born of both necessity and aesthetics. Through the metaphor of knotted rope, works actively explore the fallibility of infrastructure and the precariousness of perception. As zip ties wind their way through loopholes and around winding corkscrews of speckled cord, bundled masses dangle nearby. Miller’s meticulously crafted fiber networks allude to tangled cityscapes, revealing the humor and chaos of underlying systems.

Coming at a time of considerable chaos and unrest, the individual and collective onus of being bound by value defines the line between balance and discord. In *Structural Paradigms*, Liz Miller’s playful ability to manipulate material and her intuitive design sensibility are matched by her constructive ambition.

**About Liz Miller**

Liz Miller’s work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad. Her awards include a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Fiber Artists, a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, and several Artist Initiative Grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Miller has completed residencies at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, LA and the McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC. Liz Miller received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA from the University of Minnesota. She lives and works in Good Thunder, MN and is Professor of Installation and Drawing at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

**About David B. Smith Gallery**

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region’s most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as Art in America and ARTnews, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and The Denver Post declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.