



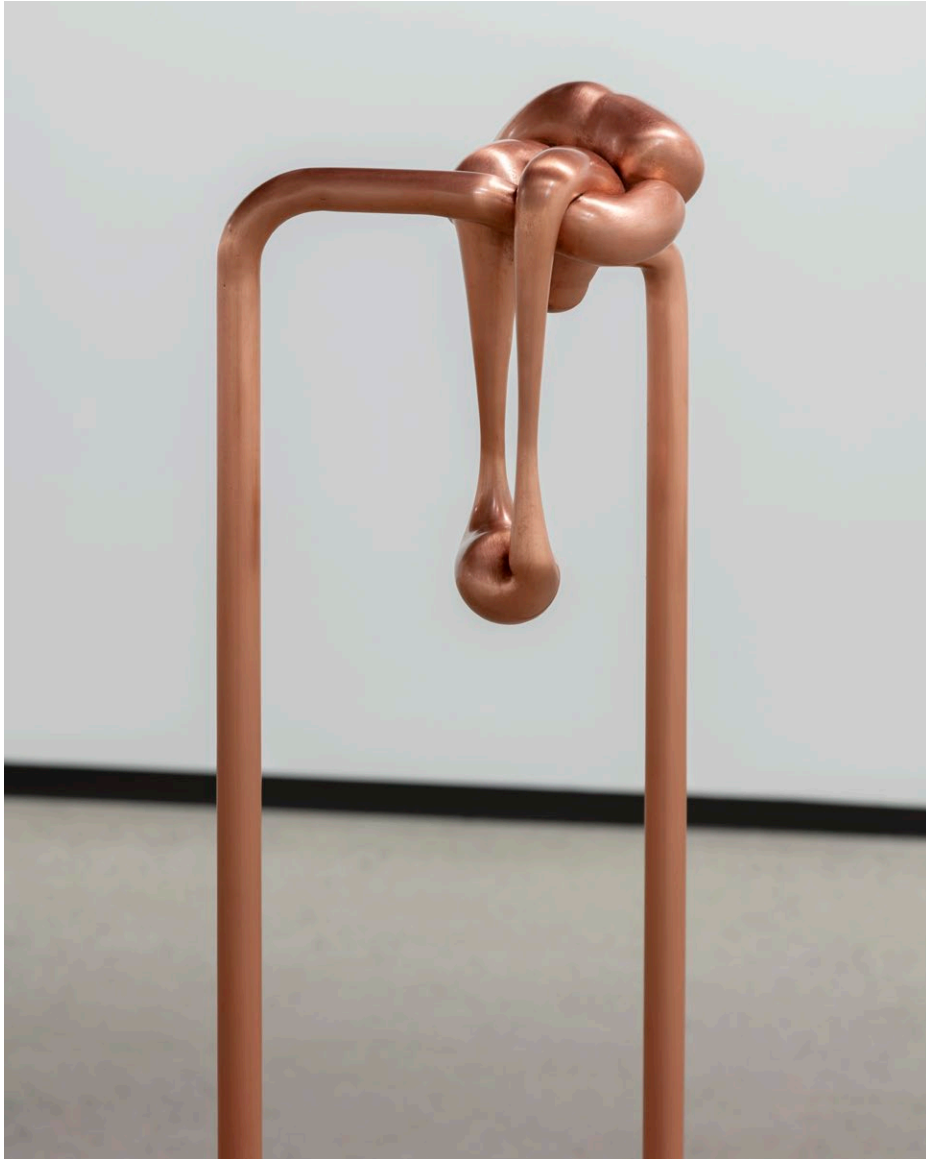
# La conduite des conduites

## Michel de Broin

Galerie Division, Montreal, 2018

This exhibition proposes an interplay between the modeling of behaviour (the French *conduites* meaning 'conduit' but also 'behaviour' – in this case of objects or bodies) and the channeling of emotional responses, flows and energy. Using common objects – furniture, pipes, flanges, and light bulbs – the artist complicates our understanding of familiar technical systems, deforming, rupturing or boring holes in otherwise recognizable forms and encouraging the viewer to untangle each object's contradictions. The curves and sinuosities of his conduits pit dynamic circulation against resistance and dissipation. Defying our expectation that industrial systems be efficient, optimized, and innovative, de Broin imagines systems foreign to those we value in our daily lives. The works open gaps in the world, introducing flaws and spaces freed from the causality shaping our relationship with design. Sentient bodies lurk behind these ostensibly technical objects. While we expect them to function and produce, the unpredictable assemblages escape the world of things in search of new and sensitive possibilities.





**Anomaly IV**  
56 x 7 x 1 1/2 in. (142.2 x 17.8 x 3.8 cm)

**Anomaly III**  
51 x 12 x 1 1/2 in. (129.5 x 30.5 x 3.8 cm)

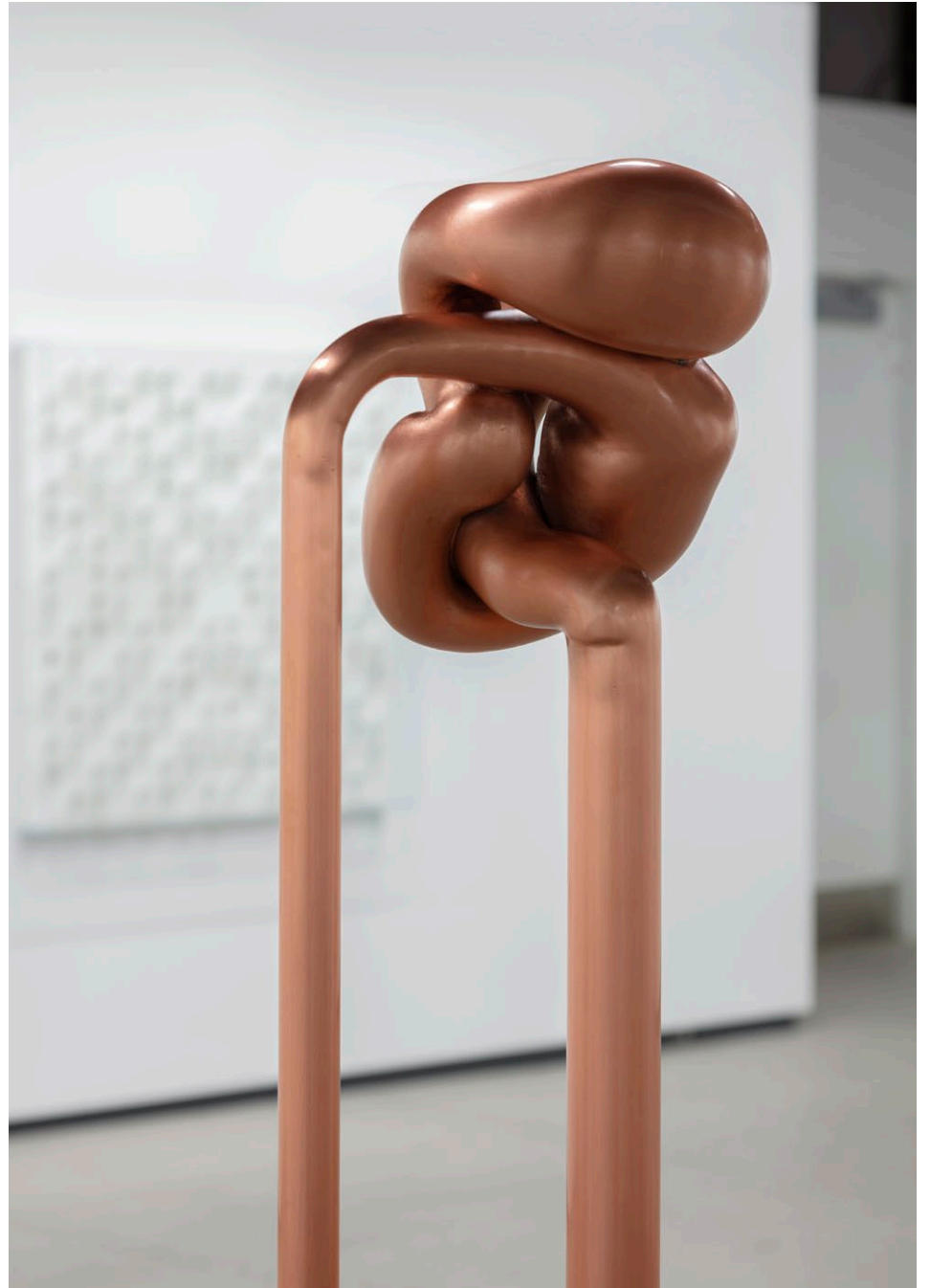
The Anomaly coil into themselves like organs, forming tumescent knots. We feel their ambiguous presence because of their resistance – that of retained energy suspended before its eventual escape.







*Anomaly I*



*Anomaly II*



***Twilight # 121***

47 1/8 x 47 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (120 x 120 x 13.5 cm)

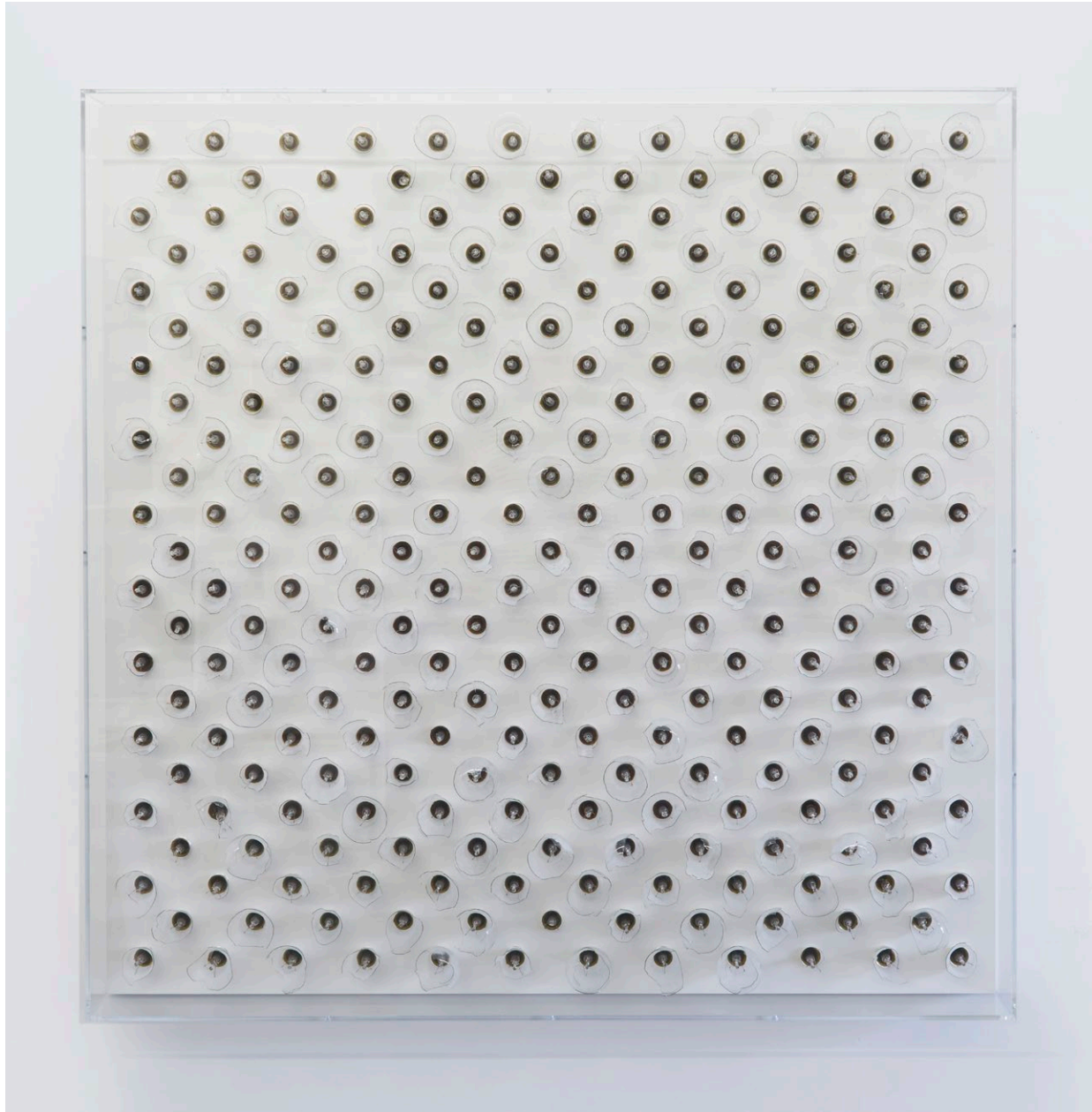
***Twilight # 265***

47 1/8 x 47 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (120 x 120 x 13.5 cm)

***Twilight # 168***

47 1/8 x 47 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (120 x 120 x 13.5 cm)

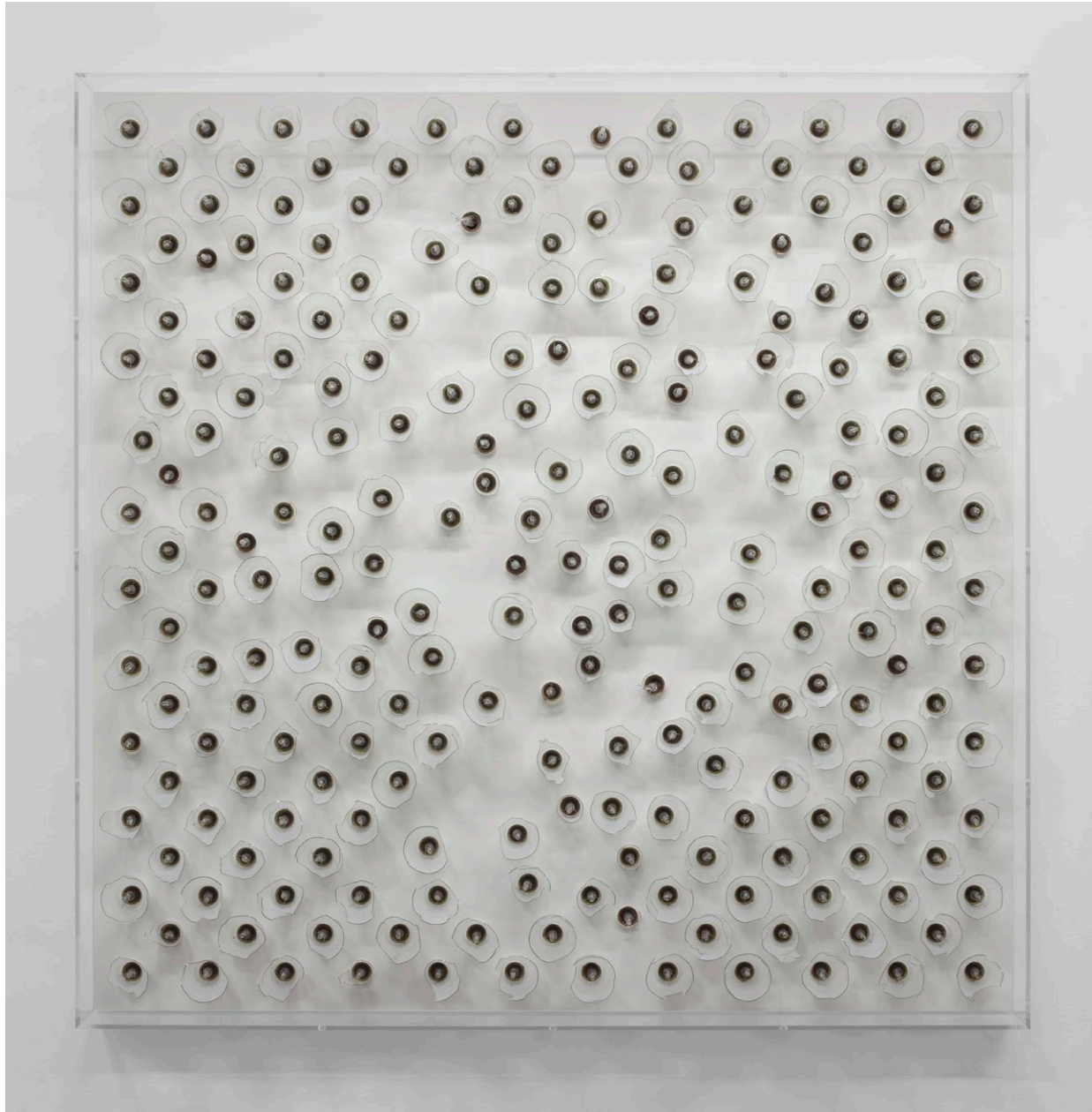
The Twilight series explores the tension between order and unpredictability. Here, the symbolic link between light and reason is shattered, illumination dwindling into a twilight of ideas. The formal rigidity of the light bulbs' alignment is undermined by a technique bent on its own destruction and disrepair. Ultimately, the poetry of a ruined technology persists.



**Twilight # 265**

47 1/8 x 47 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (120 x 120 x 13.5 cm)





**Twilight # 245**

47 1/8 x 47 1/8 x 5 1/4 in. (120 x 120 x 13.5 cm)



*Twilight # 403*  
*Twilight # 245*  
*Universal Plug and Play*



***Universal Plug and Play***

Polymer, fiberglass, epoxy, nylon fibre, plated steel base  
49 1/2 x 20 3/8 x 25 1/8 in. (126 x 52 x 64 cm)

Inspired by a network protocol of the same name used to facilitate the connection of peripheral devices. Here, the poetry of infrastructures suggests a compatibility between conduits of different shapes and appearances.





***Tube***

Archival pigment print, acrylic face-mount, 26 x 39 1/4 in. (66 x 100 cm)

Seated, rolled into itself, and open at each of its extremities, the tube skews the distinction between interior and exterior.





**Syndrom**

Polymer, fiberglass, steel and patina  
52 1/2 x 30 x 33 in. (133.3 x 76.2 x 83.8 cm)

A large metal pipe folded in on itself overthrows the expected use of a pipeline. Evoking the organic origins of petrol, the tube's contortion creates a tumescence suggestive of an organ. Reminiscent of the Venus of Willendorf, Syndrome's sensual curves provoke a consideration of our technological subconscious.