

SEPTEMBER

Opening Saturday, February 14, 5-7pm
February 14 - April 12, 2026

MARTHA FRIEDMAN: *Under Normal Conditions*

SEPTEMBER is thrilled to present a solo show of new and recent work by Martha Friedman. The exhibition presents sculptures constructed from a range of the materials Martha Friedman employs – including rubber, glass, cement and steel – to examine the tenuous points of connection and mutable intertwining of industrial and bodily mechanisms.

The two glowing poured rubber reliefs mounted to the gallery wall reference drawings of neurons by the histologist Santiago Ramón y Cajal. These forms, representing the electrical and chemical transmitters in the human body, are rendered in multicolored rubber, transformed from liquid to flexible solid, and presented on a lightbox as we would see an X-ray. It is a view into the cellular level of our own body rendered in materials that are entirely inorganic, and spoken in the language of industrial mass production.

A sculpture entitled *Finger Tip* brings into contact a rising form of heavy gray concrete with a descending ethereal piece of semiopaque glass. The two parts, made from the same mold, just barely connect forming the most delicate and precarious bond. This touch, presented in the shape of severed, over-scaled fingers, recalls Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam* where something inert is becoming sentient. This is a succinct embodiment of Friedman's practice: challenging dichotomies and material conditions, and operating at uneasy intersections of the inanimate and the living.

Martha Friedman (b.Detroit, 1975) is a sculptor using materials often associated with industry and infrastructure. She constructs forms that echo mechanical fasteners, anatomical structures, and improvised supports. Humor and unease live together in her work. Objects appear stable yet on the verge of failure, suggesting that all systems, bodily or mechanical, are temporary negotiations.

Friedman received her MFA from Yale University School of Art, and her BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including at The Kitchen (New York, NY), The Henry Museum (Seattle, WA), Andrea Rosen Gallery 2 (New York, NY), Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (Detroit, MI), Kiel University (Kiel, Germany), Jessica Silverman (San Francisco, CA), Tang Museum (Saratoga Springs, NY), The Australian National University (Canberra, AU), and the Socrates Sculpture Park (Long Island City, NY), among others. Her work has been widely reviewed in publications including The New Yorker, Wallspace, Artforum, The Art Newspaper, Art In America, among others. Her work is included in numerous private and public collections. Friedman is Senior Lecturer in the Program in Visual Arts at Princeton University, and lives and works in New York.