

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Gretchen Marie Schaefer
Enduring Gravity

May 31 — June 28, 2025
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 31, 5–8 pm
Free and open to the public | Artist in attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to announce *Enduring Gravity*, a solo exhibition by Denver-based artist Gretchen Marie Schaefer. Presented in the gallery's Project Room, Schaefer expands on her rumination on gravity's multiple forms—centered around celestial bodies, physical weight, and societal metaphor.

In her sculptures, performances, and works on paper, rocks serve as the entry point of Schaefer's work. Ubiquitous and elemental, rocks speak to physics and the natural world while carrying multiple metaphorical interpretations. Firstly, rocks invoke the ground or Earth and its counterpart the moon. Both celestial bodies, bound by gravity yet perpetually distanced by orbital speed, the Earth and moon are curiously forever linked at arm's length. Secondly, a rock's weight is the result of Earth's gravitational pull. The truth of gravity is indisputable, a constant force as reliable as any in this universe. Lastly, the gravity of the times in which we live are an emotional weight carried by all. In these three ways, Schaefer draws humanity and tenderness from the stones she creates.



Gretchen Marie Schaefer, detail, *Make Gravity the Coyote's Greatest Enemy*, 2025, paper mache, rope, wood, and hardware, dimensions variable

The cartoon character Wile E. Coyote, originally a *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* cartoon character first drawn in 1948, is an equally humorous and tragic figure subtly referenced in *Enduring Gravity* as the embodiment of precarity, desire, and endless pursuit. As stated by Wile E. Coyote's creator Chuck Jones, "Whenever possible, make gravity the Coyote's greatest enemy." Amid Wile E. Coyote's obsession with Roadrunner and his unique vulnerability to gravity, slapstick consequences provide the only relief from harm, disappointment, and unsatiated craving. For Schaefer, the moon provides a cosmic relief, however fleeting and ungraspable.

With subtle humor and a dash of futility, Schaefer's dynamic use of imagery and metaphor thoughtfully dovetails with conversations of both environmental collapse and the heaviness of the sociopolitical climate, and the resultant emotional toll. Cycles and patterns dictated by natural law yet Sisyphean in nature reside at the molten core of Gretchen Marie Schaefer's *Enduring Gravity*.

About Gretchen Marie Schaefer

Schaefer was born, raised, and currently lives and works in Denver, CO. She earned a B.A. in English Literature and Visual Arts from Regis University. She is a co-founding member of artist-owned and operated TANK Studios, LLC., a sustainable, community-centered studio space for professional artists in Denver. Since 2013, Schaefer has directed the Visiting Artist, Scholar, and Designer Program at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design where she also teaches.

Her artwork has been exhibited at numerous locations including the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, the University of Colorado Boulder Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Rule Gallery (Marfa, TX), and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (Boulder, CO). Schaefer was an artist-in-residence at Jentel Foundation Residency (Banner, WY), RedLine Contemporary Art Center (Denver, CO), and Breckenridge Creative Arts (Breckenridge, CO).

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 *Artforum*, *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." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).

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