



SHOCK UC MSK
SPRINGFIELD: EARLY SCULPTURES

JOE ELLIS ART

SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield: Early Sculptures

In 2023–2024, SHOCK UC MSK established a self-directed residency within the former Pillsbury Mill in Springfield, Illinois. The building functioned simultaneously as studio, material source, and subject, where large-scale murals, paintings, a periodical (Unemployment Weekly), and sculptural works were produced in parallel.

During this period, components of the mill's electrical and mechanical systems were removed and reconfigured into a series of sculptures that retain memories of their industrial origin while taking on new, figurative and architectural forms.

The works presented here mark the beginning of a new sculptural direction within the artists practice, emerging directly from the conditions of the site and the artist's process.

Joe Ellis



Photo: Frank Bowen



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early), 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic, spray paint, and marker

20 x 6 3/4 x 8 1/2 inches

(SH00183)

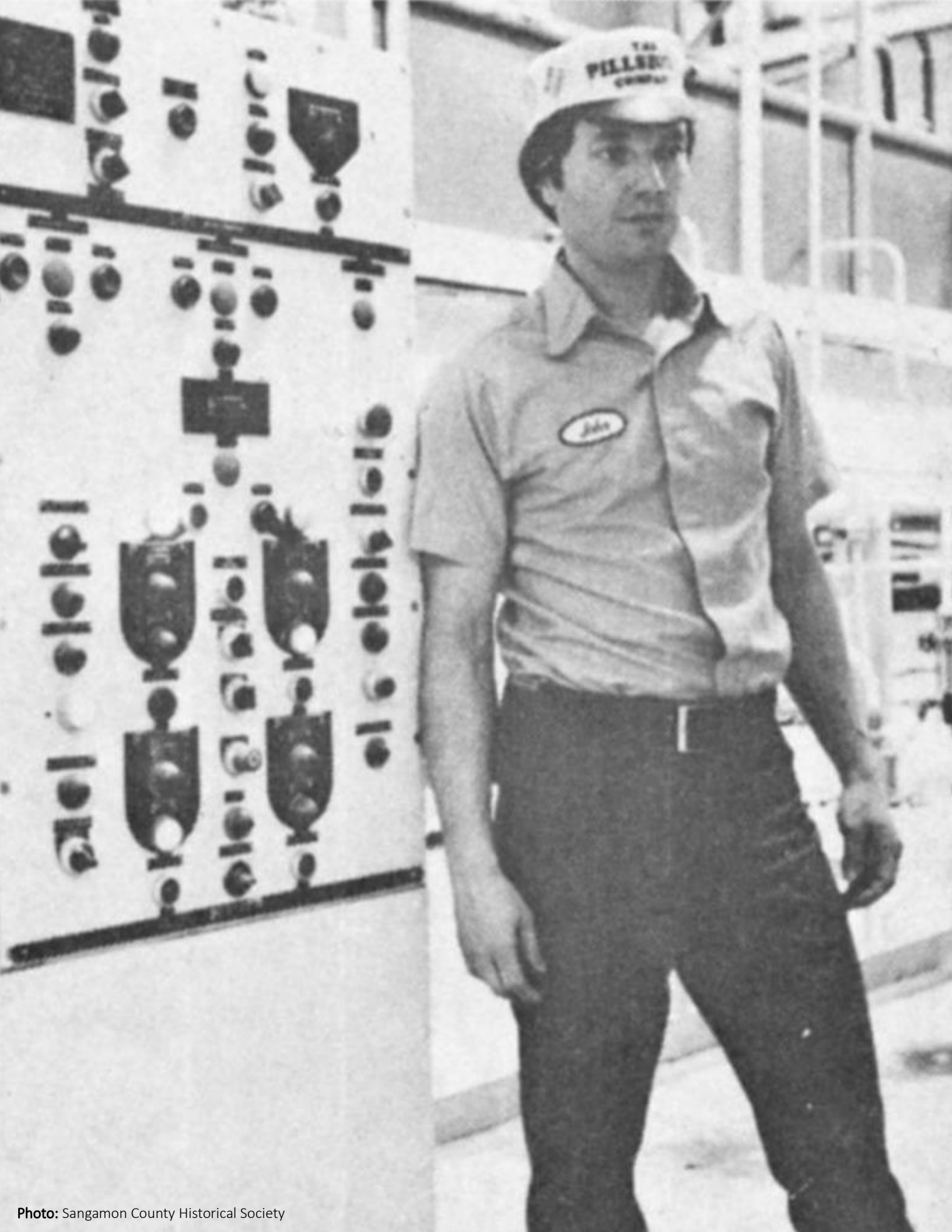


Photo: Sangamon County Historical Society



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #4, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic, spray paint and marker

17 1/4 x 6 1/2 x 5 inches

(SH00187)

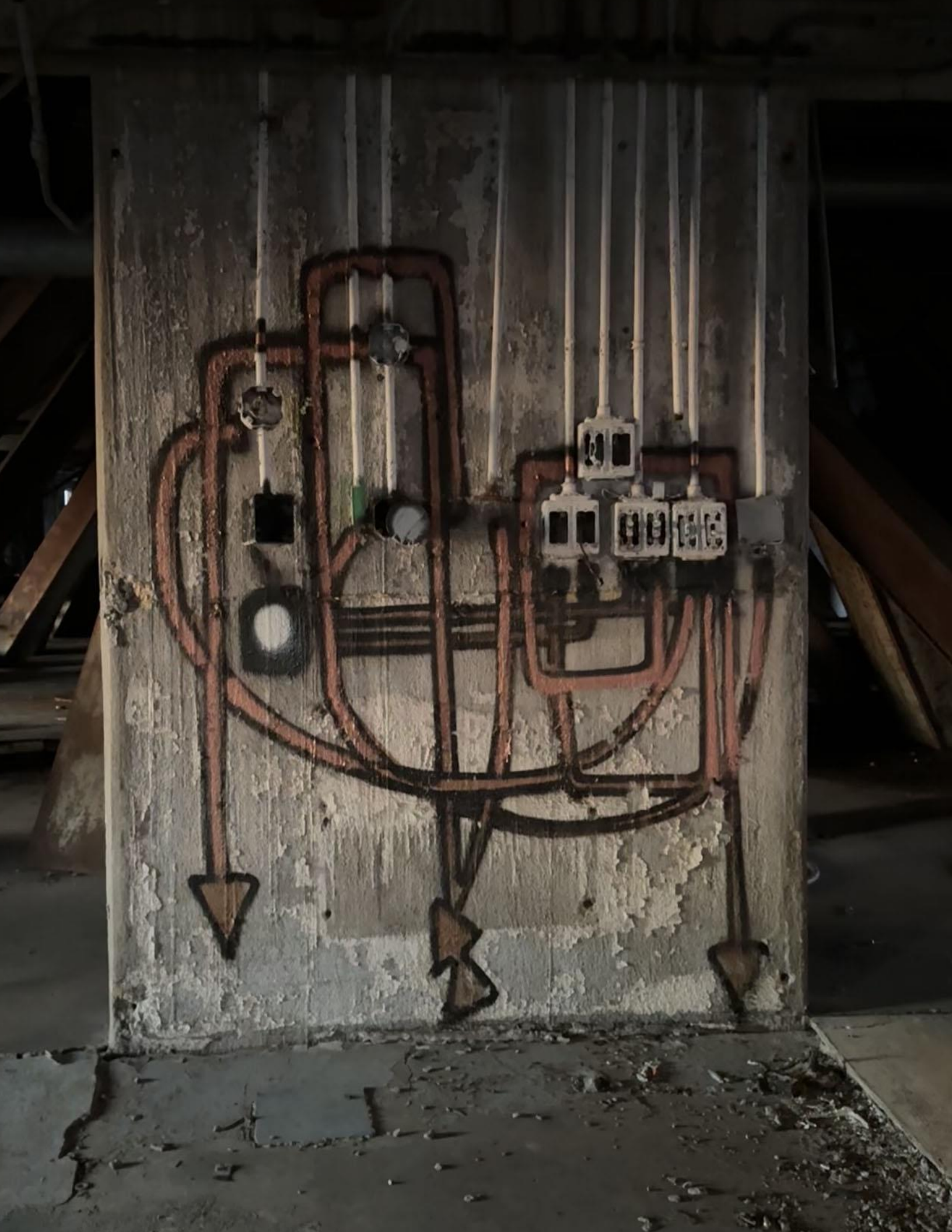


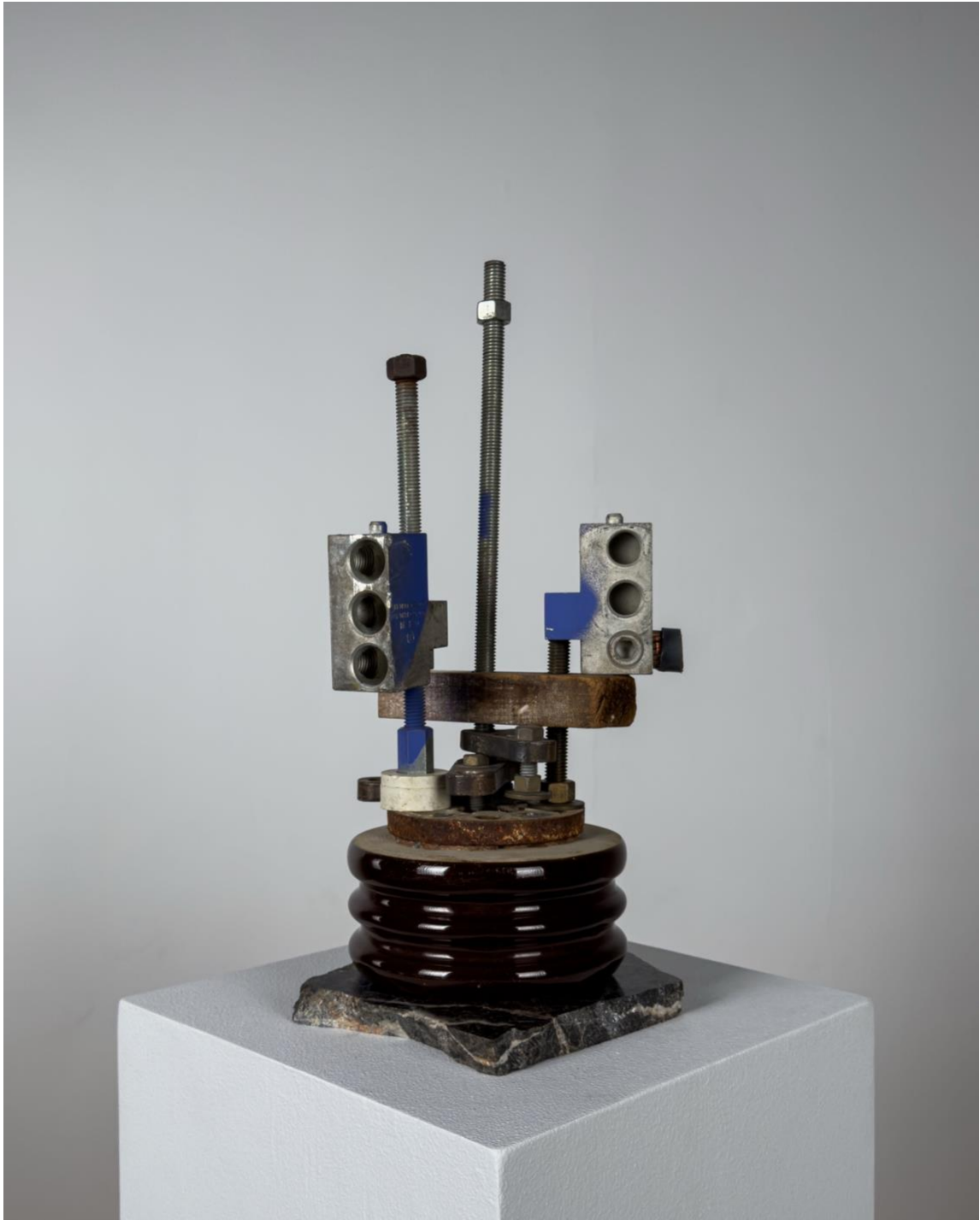
Source Material

Components of the mill's electrical system, originally designed to conduct and distribute power throughout the building, serve as the primary material for these works. Standardized and engineered for durability and safety, these elements once operated within a larger industrial network.

Reconfigured by the artist, they take on new associations, suggesting figures, structures, and animal forms that move between the human and the mechanical.

Photograph taken during a material salvage mission within the mill.





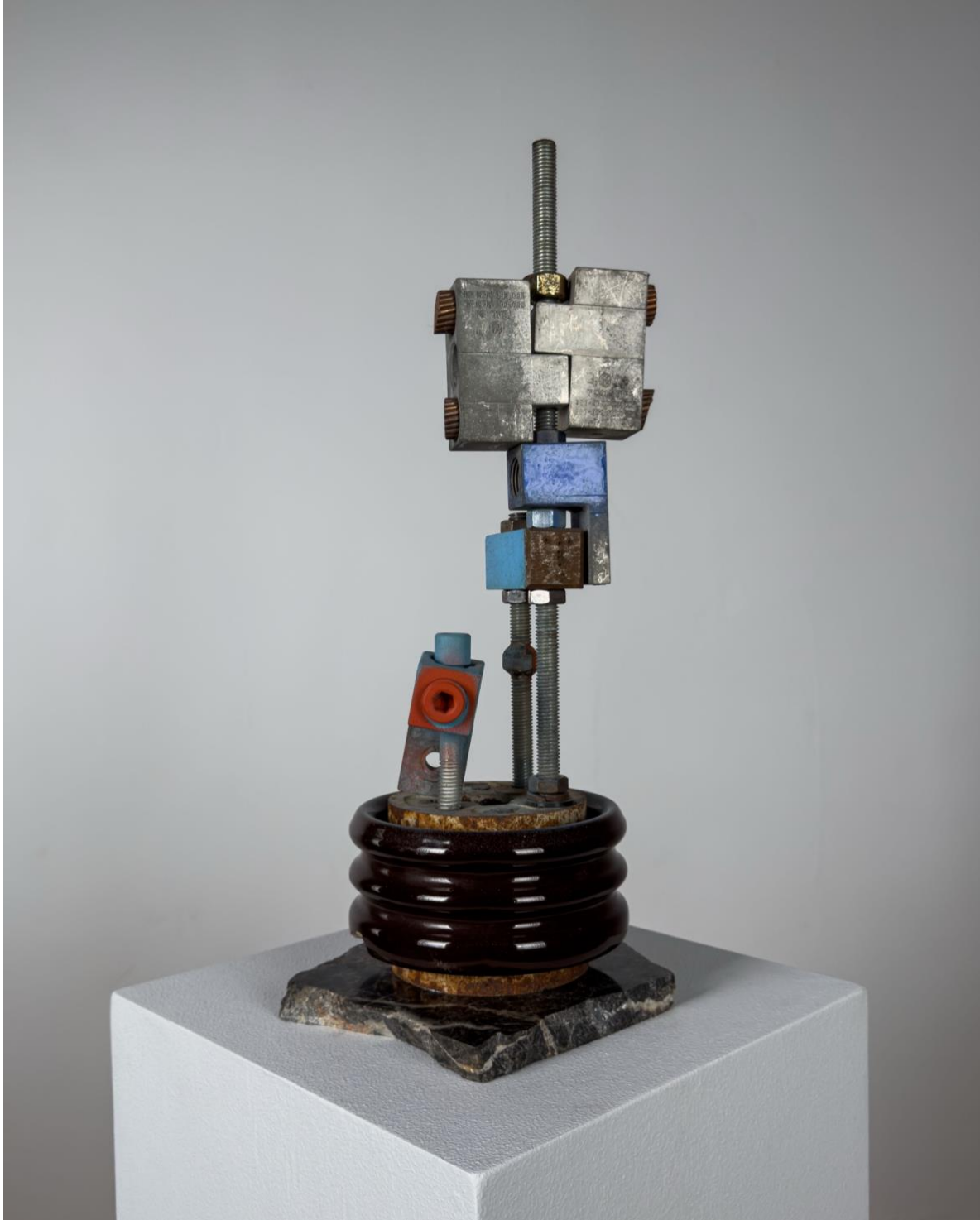
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Springfield Sculpture (Early) #2, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic, spray paint and wood

15 3/4 x 6 3/4 x 6 inches

(SH00185)



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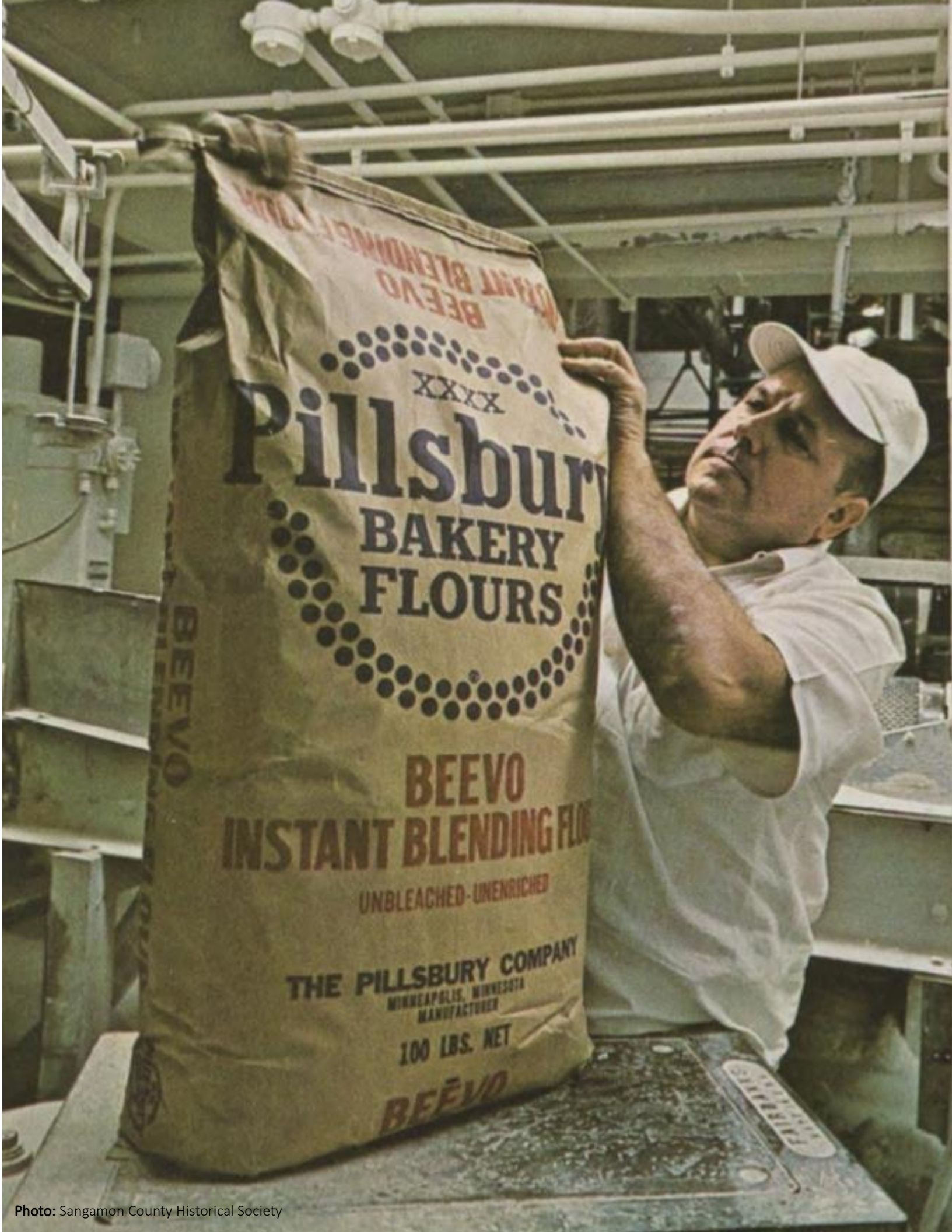
Springfield Sculpture (Early) #1 , 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic, spray paint and marker

17 1/4 x 6 x 6 inches

(SH00184)





XXXX
Pillsbury
BAKERY
FLOURS

BEEVO
INSTANT BLENDING FLOUR

UNBLEACHED-UNENRICHED

THE PILLSBURY COMPANY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
MANUFACTURER

100 LBS. NET

BEEVO

BEEVO

Photo: Sangamon County Historical Society



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #3, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic and plastic

16 x 6 1/2 x 6 inches

(SH00186)





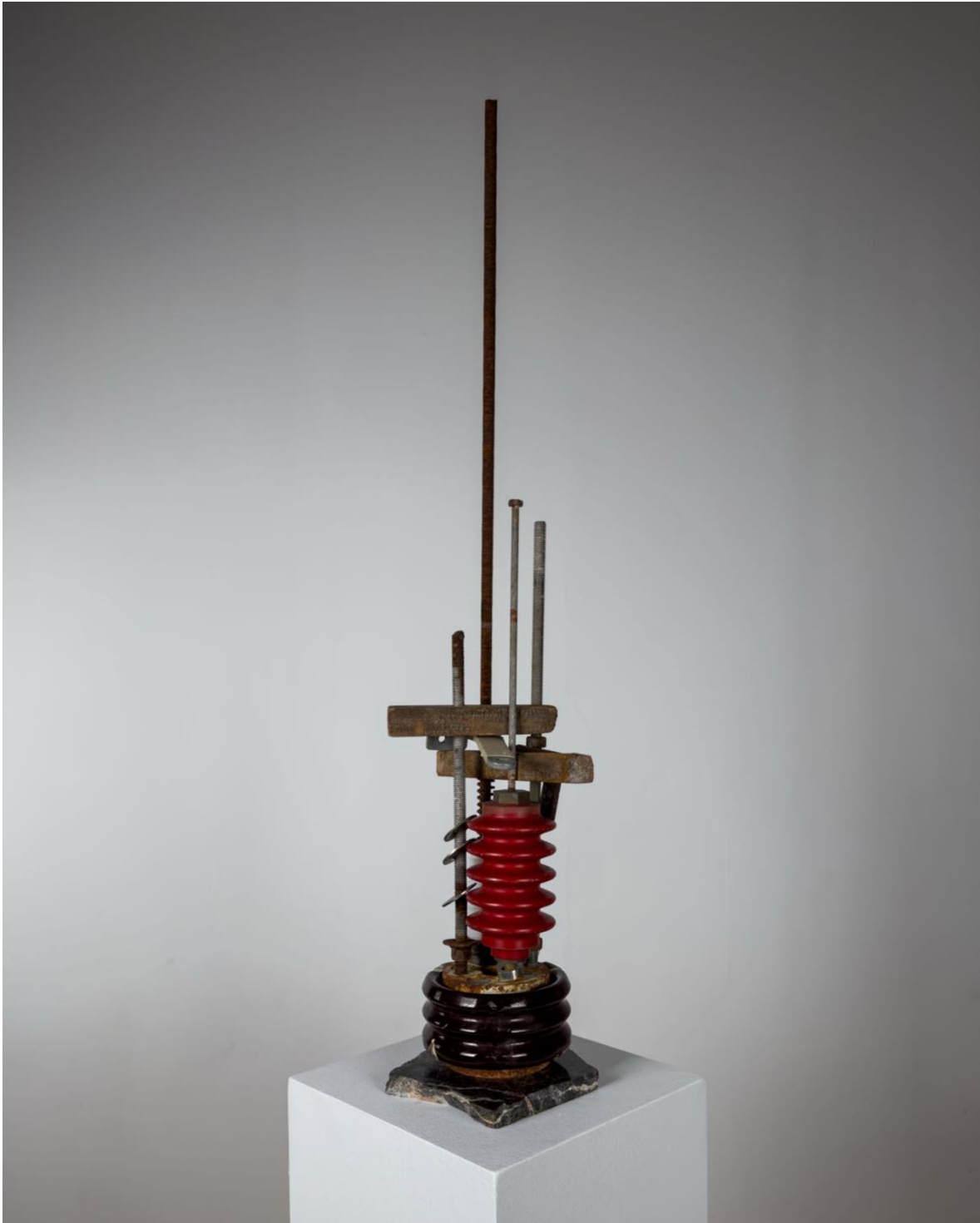
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Springfield Sculpture (Early) #7, 2024

Aluminum, steel, ceramic, plastic and paint

23 x 6 x 6 inches

(SH00190)



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #10, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic and plastic

38 1/2 x 8 x 9 inches

(SH00193)



EAR PROTECTIVE
MUST BE WORN

RUST-OLEUM

Car



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #9, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel and ceramic

29 1/2 x 5 x 6 inches

(SH00192)



Photo: Sangamon County Historical Society



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #8, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel, ceramic and plastic

20 x 4 1/2 x 4 inches

(SH00191)



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #5, 2024

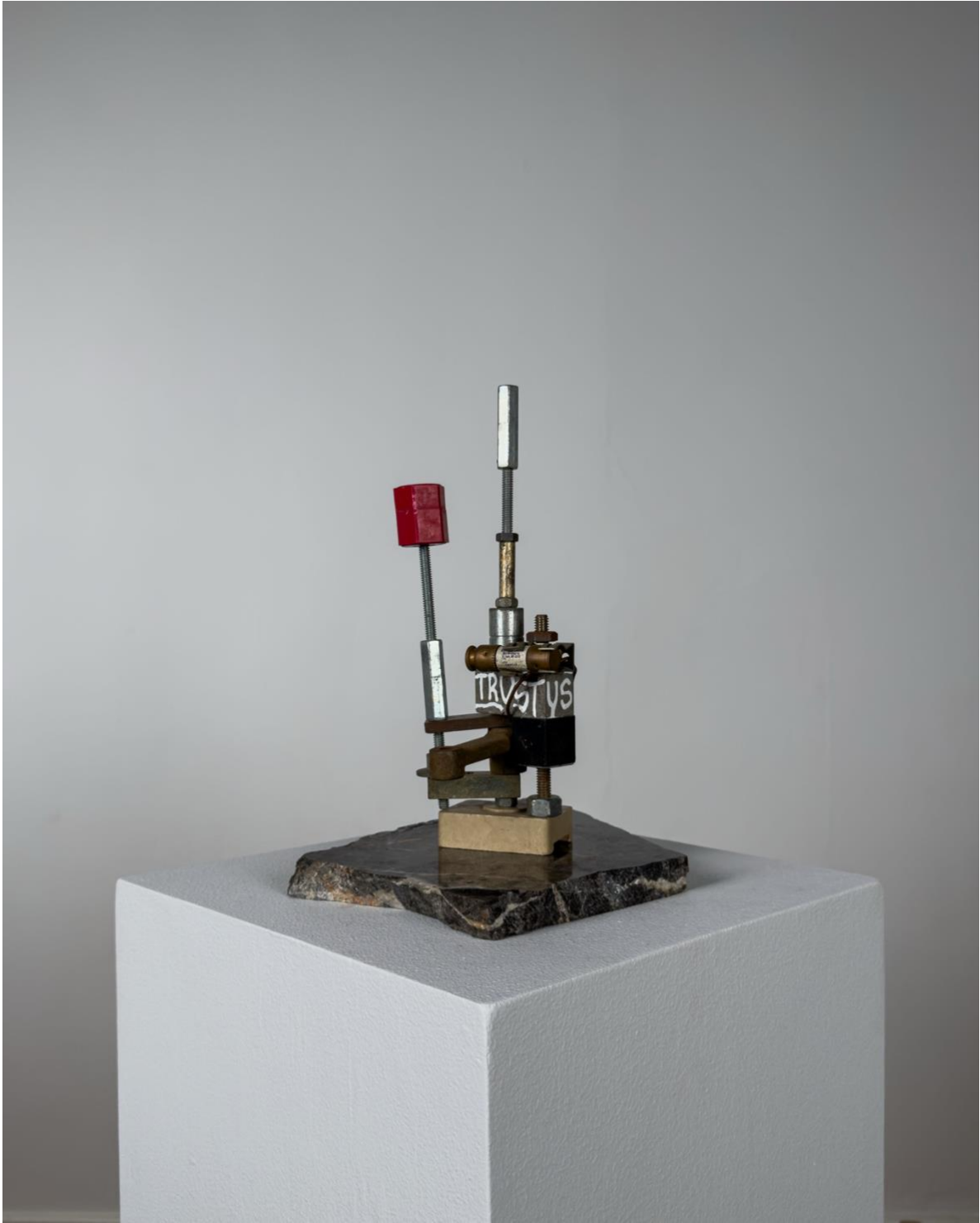
Steel, plastic, hole saw and marker

17 3/4 x 5 3/4 x 5 3/4 inches

(SH00188)



Photo: Frank Bowen



SHOCK UC MSK

Springfield Sculpture (Early) #6, 2024

Copper, aluminum, steel and plastic

10 x 4 x 5 inches

(SH00189)



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Photo: Frank Bowen