

Labours of love in the garage – in pictures

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was condemned for eternity to push a boulder up a hill only for it to roll down again. Over in San Francisco, artist Lee Materazzi decided to create her own mini version of the myth in her garage. She painstakingly created installations and as soon as they were done she dismantled them and started something new. She says the myth of Sisyphus still resonates with modern audiences: “A lot of the everyday things people do are like pushing a boulder up a hill to then just have it topple back down – laundry for one.” The optical illusions were created without Photoshop: “I love figuring out how to manipulate reality with my own hands.”

Kathryn Bromwich

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Field of Flowers

‘In Golden Gate Park, the grass is covered with flowers that look just like this: I wanted to recreate that.’



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Balloons

‘This is my daughter, Mia. I wanted to let her know that anything is possible. She likes this one.’



Lazy Girl

‘This is a stack of La-Z-Boy chairs. I like the idea of going to great lengths for something mildly absurd.’

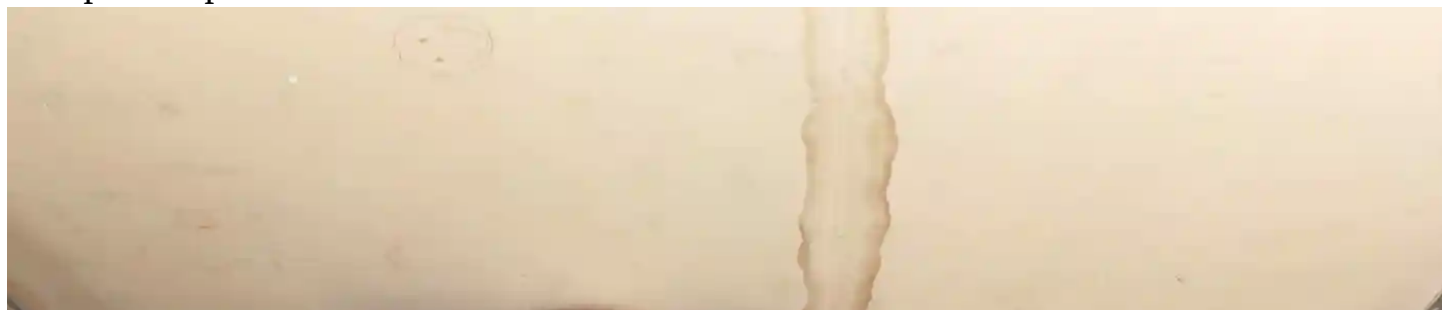




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Far Corner

‘This is me; my husband was behind the camera. Here I’m becoming familiar with a somewhat unexplored space.’





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Balls

‘At my daughter’s swim class she always tries to grab more balls than she could possibly hold. I don’t know where that primal desire comes from.’





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Balance

‘Behind the ball, my daughter is holding a phone playing cartoons. That’s how I got her to sit so still.’





Making a Dark Space Bright

‘I had to use a lot of lights and kept tripping my circuit breakers. I’m very thankful that I did not blow the entire neighborhood’s power.’





Negative Space

‘This was inspired by Michael Heizer’s North, East, South, West. It is my DIY version made by cutting a piece of black cardboard into the shape of a trapezoid and drawing on it with chalk.’



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Buried in My Garage

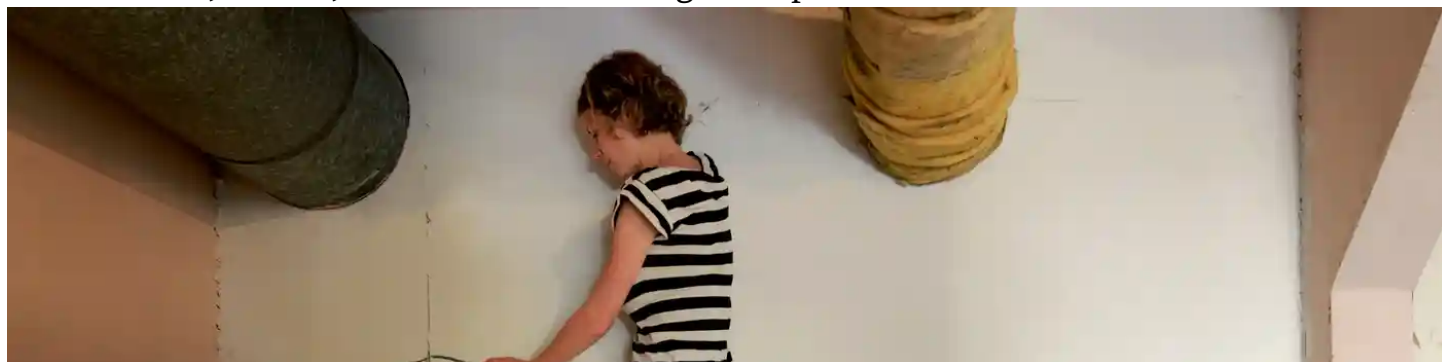
‘Right after my husband buried me my daughter started to cry, so he went for a walk with her to calm her down. I remained buried and in place.’



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Elephant Ride

‘I cut two holes through the wall for my arm and leg to disappear into. Some people walked by and were like, “Whoa, there’s a woman riding an elephant in there”.’





Screwed to the Wall

‘In this piece I stood up on a ladder while my husband screwed the sweater in; then he took the ladder away.’

Photograph: Lee Materazzi





Self-Portrait

‘This is about acceptance. I really didn’t like the way my self-portrait turned out.’





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Mud Wall

‘In an exhibition I’ll be having at Quint Gallery, I have included a wall segment from the garage, to be displayed alongside this photo.’



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