

Description of Current Practice / Artist Statement:

I am a performance artist combining the mediums of dance, circus arts, spectacle, and storytelling to create socially and personally relevant performative works. I employ the application of water, mud, gold leaf, and unnatural dimensions to a healthy body to compose memorable visual moments. The image of a human body with unnaturally long fingers, or skin flaking away, or a grotesquely small waist creates an atmosphere of strangeness that I find conducive to heightened states of attention. As in dreams, when we can be jolted to lucidity when something outside the realm of the natural is perceived, I curate these moments of the bizarre within my work to engage the viewer and create an environment in which they are invited to question what is natural. This internal place of attention is where I aim to meet my audience in an effort to tell them a story that they can relate to within themselves.

These elements of spectacle are presented as a direct commentary on the unnatural and oppressive social structures we find ourselves operating within in western culture, often through a feminist lens. My work is driven by a fascination with how the unseen influences of these oppressive structures distort our experiences; including personal mythology, societal conditioning, and subconscious belief patterns put in place by capitalist, patriarchal establishments. To uncover the aspects of ourselves, particularly the feminine aspects present in all people which are buried, suppressed, and mutilated by the sanction of outside influences is both my subject matter and my intended effect on the viewer.

As a creative writing undergrad, a professor told me “when you can learn to think in images, you can begin to write poetry.” This advice continues to influence my work - since I perceive and organize my own human experience in terms of images, I recreate these for the audience to illustrate archetypes representative of universal human experience. My study of tarot and the occult further influences my work within these symbolic archetypes, such as the Fool - the beginning of a journey, which is usually signified by a foolhardy youth in tarot’s major arcana. Even the title of this archetype reveals a passive collective judgement that a new and uncut path would only be initiated by an uneducated and naive person.

My movement practice includes circus arts, namely flexibility and aerial acrobatics focusing on rapidly spinning aerial hoop, as well as an extensive dance background in contemporary, ballet, belly dance, African, and Butoh. I combine the technical skills of aerial acrobatics and various styles of dance choreography to embody an unusual physicality, so that I can express a spectrum of human emotion from simple to misshapen.

Across the mediums I employ - writing, movement, and spectacle - my intention is to hold space for the viewer; evoking feelings of unease while supporting them in their experience. My hope is to invite them to question what aspects of themselves have been lost to the sanction of suppressive external systems.