

## Artist Statement

I am obsessed with the female figure, a subject hijacked over millennia; she has been consistently dehumanized and objectified. While staring at hyper-estrogenated misrepresentations of myself on billboards, magazines, art, and books I ask myself: Why is it so rare to find an image of a woman that I relate to? Why do women have to be hyperbolized and hypersexualized in order to express dissatisfaction with our idolized virgin-whore status? Must we become parodied to make our oppression apparent? Or is there maybe a way to represent myself that rehumanizes me? If an alien landed on this planet upon human extinction with only the relics of our art to tell them who we were, would they be able to know anything real about me? Am I the only one who cares?

I want to bring life to a new image of women - one that empathizes with the female gaze instead of the male gaze, and one that feels honest and true to my identity as a woman. The only way I see of ensuring that the visual idea of me is 100% consensual is to make images of myself. I am returning the agency to my own hands, taking the image of myself as a woman back in the name of all women who grow tired of being misrepresented.

It feels good.

I draw in a way that heavily defines volume before considering treatment of the surface. That plays enormously into my intention for myself, the female figure, to take a confrontational amount of space in the image. I usually achieve this with a series of washes of acrylic or watercolor paint and heavy draughtsman techniques with charcoal or oil pastels laid on top. The surfaces of the skin are abstracted with the use of organic/geometric shapes that lend themselves to create the volume of the face or the body instead of the typical recognizable fleshy colors. The opposite of Rubenesque in many ways.