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Crashing the IR Party: Artists as Scholars in Institutional Repositories

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Crashing the IR Party

Artists as Scholars in Institutional Repositories

Andrea Schuler and Ashley Peterson
Northeast Institutional Repository Day
June 18, 2019
In the next 20 minutes

Project overview

Building buy-in

affective dimensions
technical dimensions

Lessons learned & future directions
Repository landscape at Tufts: the Tufts Digital Library
Visit: http://dl.tufts.edu
Building a culture of sharing
SMFA Senior Thesis Program: Building buy-in

Chris Sageman, 2017 SMFA Senior Thesis project
We did it!
Nonbinary  |  Leah Corbett

Artist Bio
Leah Corbett is a nonbinary, queer photographer and artist, focused specifically on conceptual portraiture. Using a mixture of film and digital photography, they aim to address social issues and themes in their work, such as: gender nonconformity, identity, queerness, unconventional relationships and family, and the idea of home.

The intimacy between subject and photographer is vital. In their attempt to break down classic power dynamics, collaboration with subjects in performance and representation of the authentic allows for a three-dimensional narrative to be spotlighted.

Artist Statement
Nonbinary is a photographic wall installation that aims to address the relationship between gender expression and gender identity, and create space for gender non-conforming people to live fully and authentically.

Gender is always evolving to incorporate folks that identify outside of the binary of “male” and “female.” Yet with that, new stereotypes have formed from society’s desire to categorize all identities into simplified, comprehensible genres. Gender nonconforming, gendersqueer, gender-fluid, and agender-identifying people now have pressure to fit into what is becoming a fixed aesthetic of the “nonbinary” – an aesthetic that often equates “genderless” presentation with white masculinity.

I’m interested in first exploring the varying ways that nonbinary people defy these new rules by separating gender expression from gender identity. Second, Nonbinary creates a space in which these identities are voiced in fashion, advertising, and art. Finally, third, this work explores intimate connections with my subjects by doing weekend “residencies” in which I stay at their home and converse, connect, and develop our relationship through medium format photographs. These will provide insight into how the two of us relate, as photographer and subject and as queer, gender nonconforming individuals. All of these images – digital “fashion” photographs and medium format “intimate” photographs – are collaged together in order to create an immersive experience.

This work is looking to expand people’s vocabulary: what does gender and identity mean to us as singular beings, and as beings involved in many different communities? I want people to discover and question all of the binaries we are consumed by everyday. Why do they exist? Are they helping? Why is it critical that we break outside of them? Instead of providing answers, I offer visual variations to the “noem.” Ultimately, through the portrayal of individual gender nonconforming narratives, this work aims to let stories speak for themselves in a new world where gender as we know it can be left at the door.
Camille Duytschaever, *Grief of the Horizon*, 2017
Moving forward...
SENIOR THESIS POSSIBLE INSTALL LAYOUTS

Does the work need to be in the same space? Will the aesthetic language carry the narrative? If so:

Space #2

- Video projected inside enclosure to secure light
- Shelf w/ books
- Benches inside
- Diptych of drawings (historical)
- Diptych of drawings (personal) on gray wall to frame

Space #2

- Structure for video (projected)
- 2 benches
- Diptych #2 (historic imagery)

Space #2

- Video
- Gray wall
- Diptych #1 (personal narrative)
- Books on shelf

Have editions put out on rotation (by exhibition itself)
Keywords: women of color, oil paint, mixed media, fabric, silk, empowerment, recontextualizing, Santeria, embedded narratives, beads, Dominican Republic, latinx, queer, black, portraits, intersectional feminism, critical race studies, reincarnation, spirituality, liminal space.

This object is in collection
- Senior Honors Theses
- SMFA Senior Thesis Projects
- Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Subject
- Santeria in art.
- Women of Color.
- Feminism and art.
- SMFA
- Women in art.
- Tufts University. School of the Museum of Fine Arts.
ARTISTS

Khadine Caines
Michelle Coco Der Vartanian
Marylu E. Herrera
Julia O’Gara
Anela Oh
Mushky Rice
Erika Sacks
Alicia Rodriguez Alvisa, *I Can Look Strong, I am Strong*, 2018
Improving representation
An example of a Spotlight exhibit at Tufts
Questions?

Further reading: https://sites.tufts.edu/arlis2018/

Erika Sacks, 2019 Senior Thesis Project