

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I am a 32-year-old artist born and currently residing in Milwaukee, WI. Although informally trained in art, I enjoy self-navigating my style and skills by utilizing different highly accessible mediums. I am consistently working to advance my knowledge and technique for my craft and constantly evaluating the cultural impact of my work.

My artwork incorporates a mix of fine art materials (traditional acrylic and oil paint) with industrial materials (plaster, interior paint, construction adhesive, etc.). I began my art career utilizing left over paints and plaster from job sites at which my father, a professional plumber, worked. My work represents what I call an “unrefined femininity” as it demonstrates paradoxical gender associations by manipulating rough, “masculine” industrial materials and executing aggressive and exaggerated brushstrokes to create a feminine subject matter of colorful abstractions. It draws upon my formative years, in which I was tough and athletically-inclined tomboy, who was still encouraged to wear dresses and appreciate flowers by my familial matriarchs. My work embodies one burgeoning into womanhood with the challenge of conforming to and defying societal and cultural standards of femininity as a social context.

My art portfolio typically consists of larger scale mixed media works sometimes executed through multi-paneled (triptychs and greater) compositions. My art style is contemporary and usually follows an abstract expressionist style to exemplify nonconformity in life and looseness in design and interpretation. I love and am inspired by color and movement. I tend to work with bright and/or bold colors and apply them in a harmoniously contrasting manner to captivate and create a sense of positive, elevated energy. I love stimulating the senses and creating a feeling of euphoria by exploiting bold, vivid contrasting colors through my oil and acrylic emulsions. This play on kinetic energy is also demonstrated with varying textures, juxtaposing brush strokes, splatters and occasionally thick free form spills that move across a composition like erratic sound waves, representing inter-connectivity within autonomous and individualistic lifestyles. With a particular affinity for 3D sculptures, I like applying textured construction material to create a 3D element to my 2D mixed media paintings.