The Anxiety of Presenting Identity

Savannah Fleming
n01387147@unf.edu

Faculty Mentor: Sheila Goloborotko, M.F.A. and Andrew Kozlowski, M.F.A.
Department of Art, Art History and Design

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/pandion_unf

Part of the Art Practice Commons, Book and Paper Commons, Fine Arts Commons, Gender and Sexuality Commons, Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Commons, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons, Other Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons, Painting Commons, and the Printmaking Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/pandion_unf/vol2/iss1/2

This Art Submission is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at UNF Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in PANDION: The Osprey Journal of Research & Ideas by an authorized administrator of UNF Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Digital Projects.
© 2021 All Rights Reserved
ART SUBMISSION

The Anxiety of Presenting Identity

Savannah Fleming

Faculty Mentors:
Sheila Goloborotko, M.F.A. and Andrew Kozlowski, M.F.A.
Department of Art, Art History and Design
University of North Florida

Artist Statement
Within this piece, I intended to create a visual display that alluded to the chaos, complexities, and anxiety of explaining identity, especially when your identity does not fit within the strict expectations of normal. In recent years I have begun to grapple with creating representation for Queer and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) within the historical canon created by a white cis-gendered male viewpoint that dominates art history textbooks. While working with these subjects, I found at the core of my work, I wanted to present the complexities of identity, representation, and the desire for acceptance.

Usually, when I approach a new piece of work, I envision an image and deconstruct it to be thoroughly planned out. This planning makes the process and final product more predictable, but identity is not predictable. The expression of identity is not predictable. The silhouetted hand forms have become a sort of repetitive visual icon within my work. These detached hands, reaching out, grabbing, presenting, or explaining, is recurring throughout the larger whole of my work. I use hands to visually create emphasis, show direction, express emotion, and allude to something more in the emptiness that they reach for. In this piece, they are presented in synchronized and unsynchronized chaos, desperately reaching for, presenting, and redirecting the viewers’ eyes to orbs of focus.

Explaining your identity is hard enough without having to support and validate it to others. I believe identity is too fluid, complex, and ever-changing; to truly express to anyone. However, if you are Queer or sit outside the current structured frames of recognized identities, they will always ask you to explain and validate. When they ask, the battle of how much to say begins.
Savannah Fleming

*The Anxiety of Presenting Identity, 2021*

Screenprint Installation

31” x 42.5”
Savannah Fleming

*The Anxiety of Presenting Identity, 2021* (Close Up)
Screenprint Installation
31" x 42.5"