

Playpen

Cody Platt

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Approved by
Hong-An Truong
Dr. Lyneise Williams
Beth Grabowski

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As a kid I used to have small collections of things that I cherished as though they were treasures, Spiderman comic books, pennies, stamps, and cheap plastic happy-meal toys. My farther had a small wood shop in the basement of our home, where he would make gorgeous wooden speakers on his days off. In the hot summer mornings while he was at work I used to sneak into his wood shop and use his tools to dissect the cheep plastic toys, cutting them into there body parts. Then I would scurry back up the old staircase into my bed room and proceed use my trusty hot glue gun to colash different parts of toys together with other toys to transform them into my own ugly creatures. I was secretly making my own toys and more importantly I was creating my own world and my own escape. This way of construction is still present in my practice today. I am using the same method of collecting, deconstruction and a playful impulsive assemblage of parts to create sculptures and objects. I find myself interrogating and manipulating materials to challenge the line between seductive and repulsive texture, form and color.

In my work I am emphasizes my constantly changing relationship I have to my own body. Additionally this dynamic is heavily influenced by the interactions my body has with strangers and with familiar faces and also the people who I am close to. These exchanges with how my body is understood by others and their perspectives, informs my pursuit of creating and redefining my identity.

My body currently sits in between the two genders our culture has constructed and defined as woman, and as a man. Because my body in unable to fit into the immalleable box that I desire as a transgender man, my body exists as an unacceptable and ambiguous form in society. People can interact and see this body that I live in as an

object. This object can be simultaneously celebrated, fetishized, hated and also be consumed as a humorous landscape.

My work is charged with these complex dynamics that people have in relationship to their own unreachable standards of the appearance of our own and other people's body parts. I aim address these internal and external conversations we all have with ourselves discussed with as taste of strong hatred and self-loathing we are consumed by the bodies that we are stuck in. I express these common undesirable but honest feelings, and also encourage moments of celebration with those body parts that we might feel safe and proud to display to others and ourselves.

Unlike those cheap plastic kids meal toys, that can be seamlessly chopped up by an old hand saw to redesign a new body for an ugly creature, the human craving for such a quick fix that relieves us of existing in our own shameful flesh is an incredibly strenuous fictional destination. It is not that easy. For me it was incredibly important as child to secretly make my own toys and world. It was a way to give myself control, today using art as an act of power and control of my own identity as a fat queer transgender man. In my work there is powerful playfulness. All of these ideas are part of who I am and how I exist in this world.

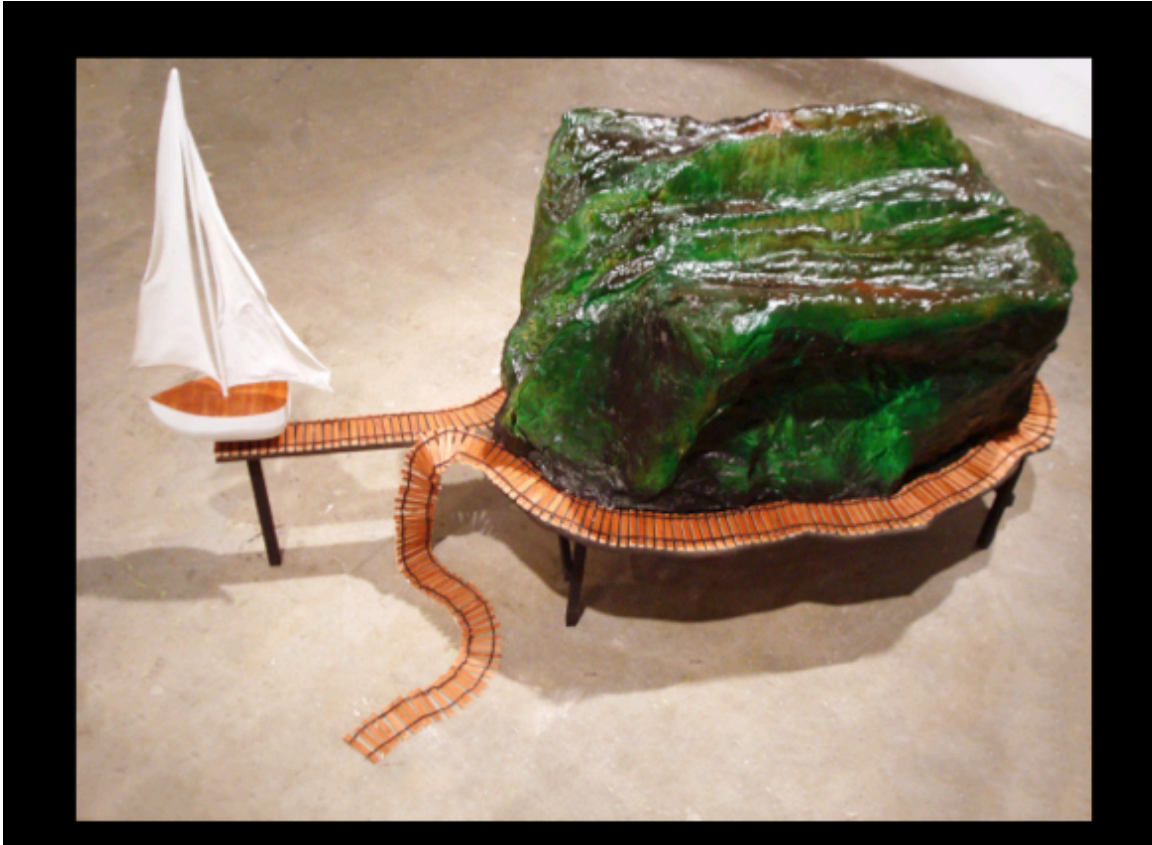
PLAYPEN

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Charms









My Brother's Puberty





Self Portrait







Plaything

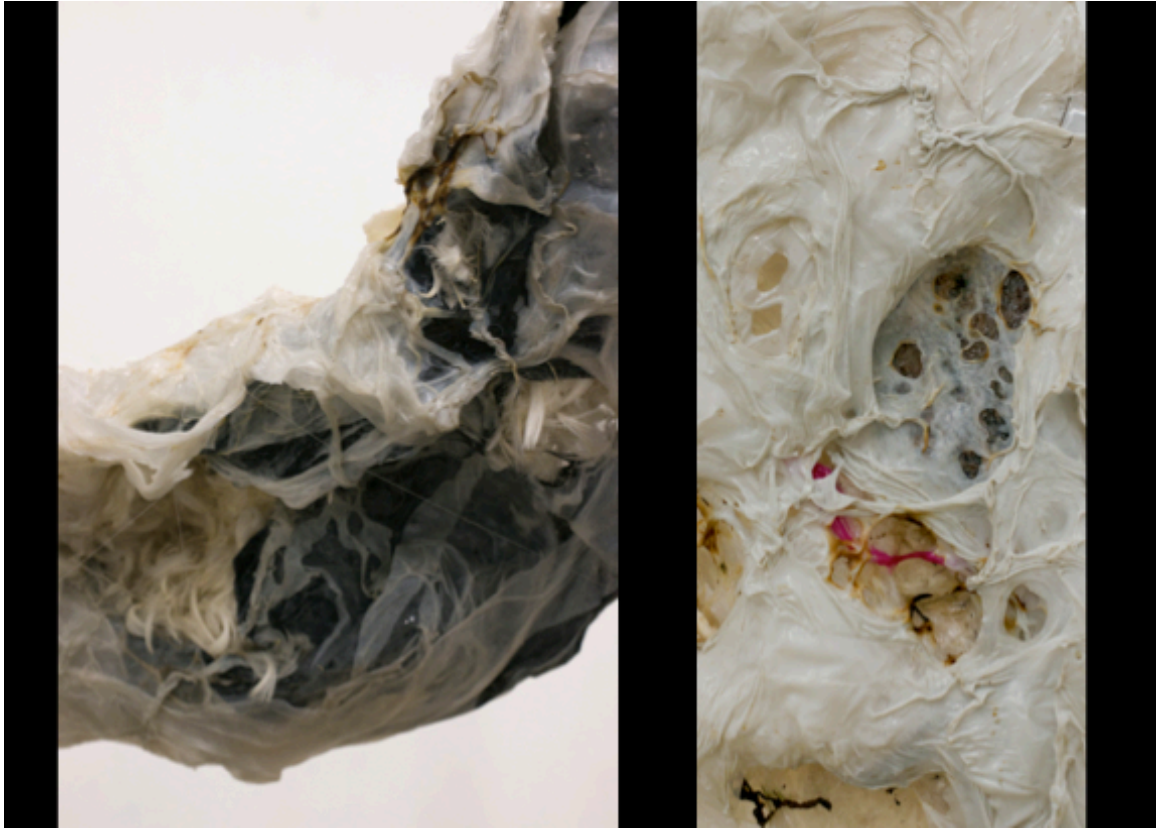






Fish







Playing Chicken







