

My current work reclaims the social narrative put onto trans women and our bodies through the exploration and representation of my own body, the objects adjacent to it, and the spaces I inhabit. My paintings start out as photos taken with my phone during private moments of bodily interaction or while in semi private spaces, for example, images are taken while ingesting hormone medication, shaving, masturbating, or using a variety of restrooms. These photos are then made into a digital collage, some are left intact in their untouched rectangles while others are altered for specific compositional use. The digital collage is then translated into a painting, a final transformative action that gives me direct physical control in how this image is embodied. This process of refiguring and oversharing intimate bodily moments allows me to have complete control in the representation and aesthetic formation of my own form as well as the spaces and objects in direct relation to it.

This form of unapologetic self representation is necessary in combating the history of misrepresentation of trans women, a history that has cast us as sexual predators and inhabitants of fraudulent identities. This false narrative has led to a plethora of negative affects, limited access to necessary health care, constant legislative attacks to bar us from safe public spaces and legal existence, and prying curiosity and fetishization of the trans body. In order to reshape how we have been defined, it is necessary for trans people to have control over the narratives surrounding their bodies and for them to be heard. Collaging my body with the objects and spaces around it, to the point where matter constantly walks the line of representational image and compositional object, allows the body to slip out of any constraint of society or flesh. My work reshapes the body in a celebratory declaration of existence, claiming the space and flesh I inhabit for myself in an overwhelming way that demands attention.