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Exhibition draws attention to gender stereotypes

February 26, 2018

STATESBORO, Ga.—Using his own experiences as inspiration for his artwork, Master of Fine Arts candidate [Kyle Hooten](#) shines a light on the social constructs surrounding gender in his exhibition “Deconstructing Abject Complacency of Ascribed Gender” which will be on view March 8-23 at the Center for Art & Theatre’s Contemporary Gallery on the Statesboro Campus. A reception will begin at 5 p.m. on March 23.

By using materials commonly considered explicitly masculine or feminine—such as baseball cards and glitter—Hooten examines the ways society associates gender with objects to reinforce stereotypes based on a person’s sex assigned at birth. Hooten draws from his personal experiences as a transgender man to choose materials that best illustrate the concept of breaking away from society’s expectations and standards.

“‘Deconstructing Abject Complacency of Ascribed Gender’ is really meant to show that gender is whatever we make it out to be and that we only believe it to be true because that’s what someone told us to think,” said Masters of Fine Arts candidate Kyle Hooten. “I want this show to break barriers in as many ways as possible.”

Although culture today focuses primarily on physical changes for transgender people, Hooten’s artwork goes deeper into the emotional and social changes people encounter. Through his work, Hooten aims to recreate a feeling of emotional detachment that mirrors his own feelings of detachment from the world, and to provoke viewers to rethink and revise their opinions of gender being placed into two categories of female and male.

“Kyle’s work is challenging on multiple levels,” notes BFSDoArt Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. “On the one hand, his focus on the ways gender is defined and understood at both the personal and societal levels poses deep questions about how ideas of selfhood and normativity are defined, reinforced and rendered malleable. At an artistic level, Kyle’s work poses interesting questions about how artistic expression operates when the subject being expressed is not one of essence, but of transformation and change.”

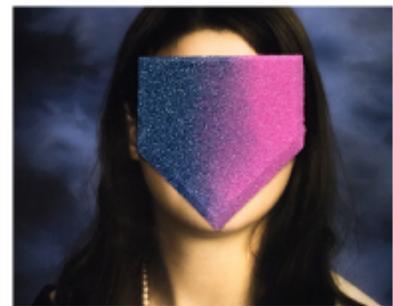
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Kyle Hooten

Deconstructing Abject Complacency
of Ascribed Gender



MARCH 8-23, 2018

Center for Art & Theatre • Statesboro Campus

Artist uses everyday items to provoke meaning, feeling in new exhibit

February 26, 2018

STATESBORO, Ga.—Master of Fine Arts candidate [Cyndy Epps](#) gives ordinary items and spaces new meaning in her upcoming exhibition “Considering Perspectives.” The exhibition will be on view at the Center for Art & Theatre’s University Gallery on Georgia Southern’s Statesboro Campus from March 8-23 with a reception beginning at 5 p.m. on March 23.

“When considering our society today, it seems strange to me that in spite of our cultural diversity, we often hold fast to the idea that there is only one way to look at things – ours,” said Epps. “Perhaps if we can reconsider the value of things we view with disregard, we can begin to explore the idea that there is more than one way to view people or issues in today’s world as well.”

Through her work, Epps asks the viewer to not only contemplate the different ways unnoticed objects and spaces can be viewed, but also the multiple ways to feel towards them. By joining multiple images of the same subject from different viewpoints, Epps challenges the viewer consider alternative ways to see that subject. Beyond changing the way a subject is seen, Epps also aims to awaken an emotional reaction towards these ordinary things. Allowing space for interpretation, Epps lets the viewer’s emotions play a part in their experience with her artwork, while also applying certain colors to elicit a different response.

“Cyndy’s project is a peculiar but important one,” as BFSDoArt Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher notes. “Contemporary culture is practically saturated with a non-stop barrage of noise and signals and relentless demands on our attention. Prompting the viewer to look at the overlooked, at those things not shouting for our attention, serves the important purpose of causing one to slow down and really just take in their surroundings. Not merely as yet another thing to take in then move along before attending to the next thing, but as part of the contextual richness of a larger experience. It is these oft-overlooked components that form the subject of Cyndy’s beautiful and important paintings.”

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