

## **ARTIST STATEMENTS**

### **Status Quo for Show**

This project is a conceptual documentation displaying the traditional gender roles my girlfriend and I tend to take on in nontraditional ways, being in a lesbian relationship. It is a visual depiction of these stereotypes and how we break them through wardrobe and behaviors. I am making a statement protesting these traditional values and social constructs. Masculinity and femininity lie on a spectrum. Being born a certain sex should not be held to expectations to determine who you are. I am showcasing what it means to be in a woman and woman relationship, what gender roles we display, and how we function and balance each other out. The whole point is to show that we don't fit into one category all the time. Sometimes I am the more masculine woman while my partner is more the more feminine one, or I am more feminine and she is more masculine or we can be either of both at the same time. Even in heterosexual relationships, the man and woman do not fit into one of these roles strictly. The wardrobe being used is referencing an era when stereotypical gender norms were more prominent. I use a cinematic photography style inspired by Phillip Lorca and dynamic angles to give a dramatic effect.

### **Adulthood vs. Adolescence: Comparative Study of 2 Stages of Development**

This series is a photodocumentary series that focuses on observational behavior of adults and children during a vacation and how each chooses to spend their leisure time. Throughout the series there are distinctive behaviors that are associated with adults and those of children. The family dynamic between siblings is captured and compared to the friendship of adults to

showcase how each experience entertainment and maintain relationships through various activities. This visual representation not only explores the development of children and the responsibilities of adults that tend to the children, but also how each relax or have fun. As children age their definition of fun changes and adults sometimes revert to a more child like state or “feel young again.” This comparison between best friends, a mother and her children, and siblings amongst themselves, allow the viewer to gain insight in the different stages of social interaction and the different stages of development.

### **Experiences of Identity**

This film series documents the members of the LGBTQ+ community and the experiences they have faced. Through personal interviews each member is able to educate outsiders about experiences they have had associated with their identity. Many members’ stories are not told or the people that do tell their stories, are either brushed aside or not given enough attention. This insight allows for representation and validity in the world to not only educate society about their lives, but also break down stereotypes and biases. Educating the public about various sexual orientations prevents ignorance, and allows people to experience different perspectives outside of their own. In order to promote inclusivity, people must learn about each other and understand that one’s identity is valid.