

Artist Allynn Carpenter – Queer Love

Allynn Carpenter is an artist in Portland whose work in pencil, watercolor and 3D sculpture relates the sensations of being in a body while walking a line between illustration and abstract art. Allynn says, “An accumulation of moments of embodiment, my work probes the relationship between corporeality, desire, and an ever-shifting sense of self. While my own trans identity is present in the work, the viewer doesn’t have to identify as trans or queer. They just have to be human with a body.”

Much of my portfolio consists of intimate self-portraits; my own body is both the subject and language of most of the pieces. My work is a way to focus on the tension that accumulates at the seams between the idealized, imaginary, and real body. Where does my body meet or overlap with “me?”

I use a variety of media, such as collaged photography, gouache, watercolor, colored pencil, paper maché, and tattooing. Just as my identity is transient, my interest in a particular medium ebbs and flows. My tendency to combine different types of mark-making allows potential for greater contrast in the work. I’m curious about the contradictions of zooming in and out, holding in simultaneity the alien and the acutely familiar aspects of self-inspection.

bio

Allynn Carpenter is an artist living and working in Portland, Oregon. Allynn’s primary area of interest is the body, which is evident in the intimate renderings in both his gallery work and his professional portraits. His portfolio consists of intimate self-portraits through various media such as collaged photography, gouache, watercolor, and colored pencil. His work as a tattoo artist both influences and is inspired by his artistic relationship to gender presentation and the human form. A graduate of Evergreen State College and Pacific Northwest College of Art’s Visual Studies MFA program in 2018, Allynn has shown work throughout the Pacific Northwest.