

Obliteration & Creation

Momentary obliterations, meditations and creations of a body.

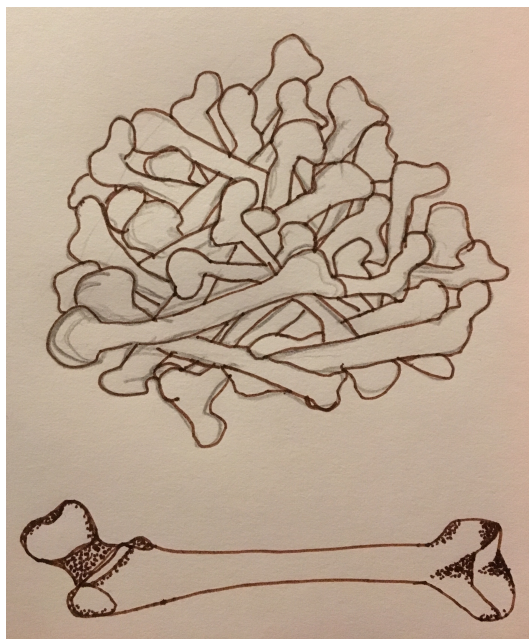
Many artists have talked about an obliteration of self as a spiritual practice or to explore concepts of ego. I am interested in how ritual obliteration and re/creation of the physical body plays an important part in my life and functions as a survival strategy as a chronically ill and disabled transgender person. The body contains no static form, is highly flux and a destruction & recalibration of its meaning must be a daily practice. Disability & chronic illness often dissolve the preconceived notions of what a body is and how it is to perform. This creates a collapsing of stable categories into a production of new truths and renaming of the body, its parts and its functions. This is part of dismantling the system of enforced abledbodiedness.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick spoke of her experience with breast cancer as ‘an adventure of applied deconstruction’. The ongoing disruption of my knowing my body is often an unconsensual experience. It isn’t just getting old or my body changing shape, though I must experience that too, but a total obliteration of body parts. I have found freedom in embracing the obliteration of physical self, in tearing down meaning & form, building it back up into something personal and empowering. Many rituals I practice now encourage and push further into that space of a body deeply in flux. Using the body and its form as a memory map or diary of experience. Meditative practices of holding space for a body of difference that is always othered.

Proposed works

1. Don't You Forget About Me

Pile of many slip cast ceramic femur bones (not yet made) – this work explores the loss for the missing bones in my body. My physical disability is almost always invisible. Existing in the world as a cyborg/restorative cyborg.



2. The River Never Tells Me To Lose Weight

Swimming river weightlessness video work at Lake Yarrunga (not yet made) –
Weight loss always pressured onto people especially with physical disability.
Exploring gravity and its relationship to my chronic pain and disability.
Meditating in the nurture I feel being held in/by bodies of water.



3. Swim Good

Documentation/Creation of Tattoos – in collaboration and as a solo practice. Memory map and reclaiming of body through decoration. Safe, positive, autonomous ways to interact with pain and to bring about altered states emotional, spiritual and physical change. Expression of vulnerability and strength and a mode of release.



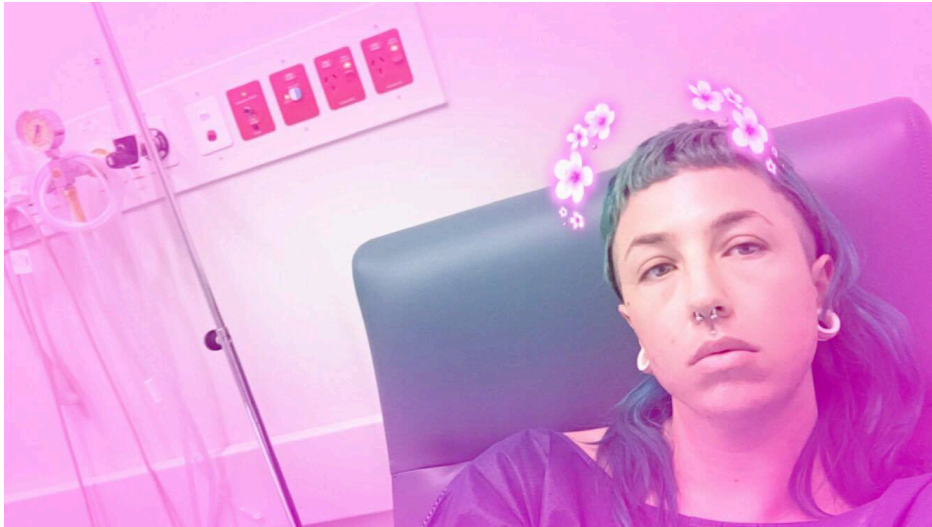
4. Just Fuck Me Up

References an internet meme joke. Collection of my own colored hair that I've cut and colored, spanning 10+ yrs displayed in singular tiny vessels (100?). The gradient of colors mapping the time/history/change of the hair/body.



5. Help Me Get A Lil Something Off My Chest!

Photos/Video (not yet made) Upcoming breast surgery documentation – augmentation of body as choice/survival practice.



6. Also I could do a re-performance of my grad show work 100 Needles &/or also show my Don't You Forget About Me video work – details of both on website :

infinetwaterfall.com

Public program

Panel talking about accessibility in the art world for artists with chronic illness and disability. Pressures of capitalist ideas of production that are reproduced/enforced in the art world. The challenges we face and how curators and gallerists can better accommodate these artists. What does accessibility in the art world look like?

Ohni Blu

Exhibited: Selected Group Shows:

2010 - *Koalacore 50,000*- by Goey On the Inside - Santiago, Chile

2010 - *Islands in the Stream*– Brisbane Powerhouse - by Vivian Zihlerl

2010 - *Holographic Love Motel*- by Princess Amy

2011-2015 - *Ova The Rainbow*- The Spectrum - NYC, USA

2013 - *Idapoolooza Fruit Jamboree*- Tennessee, USA

2013- *Debbie Doesn't Do It For Free*- Tap Gallery

2013 - *Interlude*– The Rocks

2013 – *The Mane Event*– Ponyland

2014 – *Moon Lairs*– Little Woods Gallery – by Kati Elizabeth

2016 - *Put it on Wax*– aMBUSH Gallery – by Lord Street Collective

2016 – *100 Needles*- Undergraduate Degree Show – SCA

2017 - *Cache*– Down Under Space – By Alice Joel

2017 – *Embittered Swish Refracted*– Firstdraft - By Embittered Swish

2017 - *Fully Sick*– Firstdraft – by Ohni Blu & Willurai Kirkbright

2018 - *Waves*– Sullivan & Strumpf – by Kate Britton

Solo Shows: 2010 - *Ohni's 25 Yr Life Retrospective* –Little Fish Gallery–by Ohni Blu

Upcoming: 2019 - January - *Queer Life Drawing*– AirSpace Projects

Curation: 2009-2011 - *Little Fish Gallery* – Co-director & curator

2011- 2018 - *DancePIT* – Curation of events

2015-2018 - *Queer Life Drawing* - Curation of events in collaboration with Blake Lawrence

2016 - 2017 - *Soft Edges* – Curation of events

2017 - *Fully Sick*- Firstdraft – with Willurai Kirkbright

Awards: 2014 - The Jerome De Costa Memorial Awards

2016 - Thomas Walker Award