

“The animal looks at us and we are naked before it. Thinking perhaps starts here.”

-Jacques Derrida

Is there a point where animal ends and human begins? Western philosophy suggests that the being known as “Animal” is forever positioned on the complete opposite side of the divide; a divide that reassures “Man” as superior. But, is that divide permeable? I would say yes. Nonhuman animals, especially those species that interact with us, such as domesticated dogs, transcend that divide on a daily basis. Not human yet not animal, these species occupy a new type of existence. They are instead referred to as “Other”.

I have always found the human, nonhuman animal relationship to be a fascinating concept. For as long as I can remember I have been attuned to both the domesticated and the wild animals around me. I have always been drawn to animal literature and cultural lore about animals and their place in human society. I am intrigued with our co-history, and I value the animal as an individual.

In my art, I endeavor to explore the identity of the “Other” as well as my relationship with them. Animals are not just beings of beauty and awe, but rather rich, complex, knowing individuals. As an artist, I feel compelled to reconstruct the human, nonhuman animal relationship as well explore our experiences with those of other species in order to examine the deep symbiotic relationship between all living creatures.