

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

-Jacques Derrida, “The Animal That Therefore I Am (More to Follow)”

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, transcend that divide on a daily basis. Not human yet not animal, these species occupy a different type of existence. They are instead referred to as “Animal Other”.

In exploring the concept of the "Animal Other", I've observed the similarities it shares with the female experience. Throughout western history, women have been represented in art, as in life, as "Other". As the similarities in the depiction of women and animals grow more apparent, I find the shared experience produces an unshakeable bond between the two groups.

The concept of the “Other”, both animal and female, has inspired my creative process for as long as I can remember. As an artist, I feel compelled to reconstruct the human-nonhuman animal relationship, as well investigate gender and its role in our shared experience.