

Treating the family as a perverse engine of intimacy, my work highlights the sexuality inherent within families. I consult queer, feminist and psychoanalytic theories to explore normative notions of “success” and “failure”. I investigate the intersections of gendered and aged bodies, while celebrating queer practices of kinship. I conjure a queer read of Freudian familial dynamics as my work most frequently centers around a performative relationship between my mother, grandmother and me. With emphasis still on “mothering” I regularly cast a group of women, ages 55-92, related to me either through blood or longstanding social circles of my mother and grandmother, thus making my art a sexual “role play” amongst extended family.

My paintings and videos re-enact seductive performances aimed at exploring the multiple effects and provocations generated by me, a 35 year old queer woman, directing women of my mother and grandmother’s generation: From whom do we inherit our seductive strategies, techniques and tactics? How might my direction queer their action? Who is the object of desire? Who is seducing whom?

My current body of work is made up of a series of paintings entitled, *Entertainment For Men*, that re-stage Playboy covers and centerfolds from the 1980s with my cast of women. These women also appear in my video series, *Visual Pleasure/Jukebox Cinema*, which re-makes Scopitone Films of the 1960s. Through these re-enactments, I ask the audience to consider the limitations of a successful performance of youth, femininity, and their conflation, to calibrate those attractions and repulsions induced by the performances, and to re-evaluate the meaning and construction of both seduction and the seduced. By inserting intergenerational, queer, familial, seductive play into these references I create a work of lesbian camp that becomes conceptually linked to the cultural and sexual consciousness of my mother’s adolescence. In doing so I aim to retroactively influence the literal and conceptual models of sexuality that influenced the generations of women before me from whom I inherited my own notions of gender, sexuality and methods of seduction.

I’m inspired by queer theorist J Halbertsam’s emphasis on “failure” as a gateway to wisdom, creativity and discovery. I see my work exposing the “failure” of performing youth and sexuality as universal and inevitable. In this way, I ask my audience to face

queered notions of aging that usher in profound possibilities for rethinking identity and relationship.