

L a c e y M c K i n n e y

I explore how the body is shaped through social ordering according to cultural templates of gender. Using various media such as alternative photography, painting, and drawing, I shift meanings of the body by reconfiguring images to recontextualize expressions of identity and agency. Figures are combined in various manners to imagine new ways of being, working from the historical context of collage as a vehicle for the subversion of images. Faces, legs, arms, and feet emerge as corporeal entanglements to acknowledge ways in which people arrange their own bodies relative to a situation, place, and social expectations, describing the limitation of movement within constructed hierarchies. For instance, a pair of crossed legs holds meaning contrasting from a pair that is outstretched. Each composition references collective identity and investigates how shared beliefs and value systems manifest physically. For example, gendered divisions of labor in different communities can alter bone structure. I develop stories of flesh, blood, and bones, visualizing the intersection of dynamic, complex phenomena with textiles like cotton and silk as substrates, referencing materials traditionally associated with women's work.