

Artist Statement

Maxx Sizeler

Installation: *The Morphing Mobility of Two and Fro*, 2005

In this work color is used as a metaphor and to illustrate the morphing of gender, pink for “girl,” blue for “boy,” and yellow for everyone in-between.

The toy car-shoes project installation, entitled, ***The Morphing Mobility of Two and Fro***, involves scale models, which have evolved out of my idea that, as architects build models for proposed buildings, I create models or prototypes of gender. The prototype is important to me as it references many subjects, from gender to cars, and from the idea of morphing gender to the hybrid. It is also important that both cars and shoes are fetish objects with specific relationships to gender and the body. They are both a kind of pedestal and power symbol. The work merges and/or invades these separate categories of gender, one with the other. The number three also plays an important role in this work; it defines that age at which children first become aware of society’s definitions of gender. The mobile references the baby, toy cars allude to the child, and shoes embody ideas of assigned gender roles. The material used in the models and mobile is Styrofoam. Like gender, foam is not solid, and is an easily changeable material. The colors of pastel pink and blue are used to represent the binaries of gender, and the yellow spongy foam material represents ambiguous and undefined gender in-between the binaries.

The Camouflaged ***Hybrid Prototypes*** which conflate toy cars and high heel shoes reference notions of drag. Drag, being the behavior, practice, and presentation of all types of gender identification and expression. Everyone has their own form of gender camouflage. Society’s constraints on traditional gender presentation can make it difficult for even normative individuals to fit in. For non-normative individuals, the challenge can be daunting. Thus camouflage is important because it addresses this notion of gender drag that concerns all gender variation and expressions.

The ***Trans-Binarial-Shelf*** refers to the furnishings and accouterments (Toys, etc...) that might be found in a baby’s room, if that baby was of non-normative gender. The ***Subterfuge*** playpen addresses the fear society has of non-normative gender. The tank, which is shooting at, and encircling the invasive enemy, represents society’s fear. The hybrid car/shoe represents the object of fear, gender outside the binaries. The ***Gender-Auto-Mobile*** suggests how society imposes its views of gender on young children long before they are verbal and have a chance to form their own ideas.