PROJECT 2, Marielis Garcia Fall 2018, Project Research Professor Mark Smith

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Please note that this PDF does not have all the visual materials. Visit www.MarielisGarcia.com/project2 for all video, and interactive supplemental material.

Abstract

This project is caught between the human body as specimen and my own conditional body defined by personal history, societal implications and my physical manifestation.

The human body, is collection of organisms, mass, systems, traits, consciousness, memories and much more than we fully comprehend. "A person can be reasonably unsure or mistaken as to which part of her body he or she is aware of at any given moment. This requires discussing the phenomenon of bodily awareness..." Bodily awareness is acknowledgement of your own body, your container, the soma.

"Bodily Sensations, together with kinesthesia, proprioception and the vestibular system amount to an awareness of one's body that is of only one's own body and it's parts.²"

Body ownership similar to body awareness is dependent on sensation and proprioception, but it also includes an element of kinesthetic agency and autonomy in motor events (actions) produced by you with your own body.

Straddled between knowing yourself, and not understanding your own packaging- this entire project sought to collide introspection and perception; personal bodily awareness and systematic social biopower (a termed defined by Michel Foucault as "achieving the subjugations of bodies and the control of populations3").

Unequivocally explored through my female point of view, the various projects that came about from this investigation ask the viewer for autonomous interaction with the work. Interaction is essential, it pushes viewers to connect to their own kinesthetic awareness (bodily awareness) and acknowledge the social constructs denoted on them and their body (body ownership).

¹ Schwenkler, John. "The Objects of Bodily Awareness." Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy in the Analytic Tradition 162, no. 2 (2013): 465-72. http://www.jstor.org/stable/23356682.

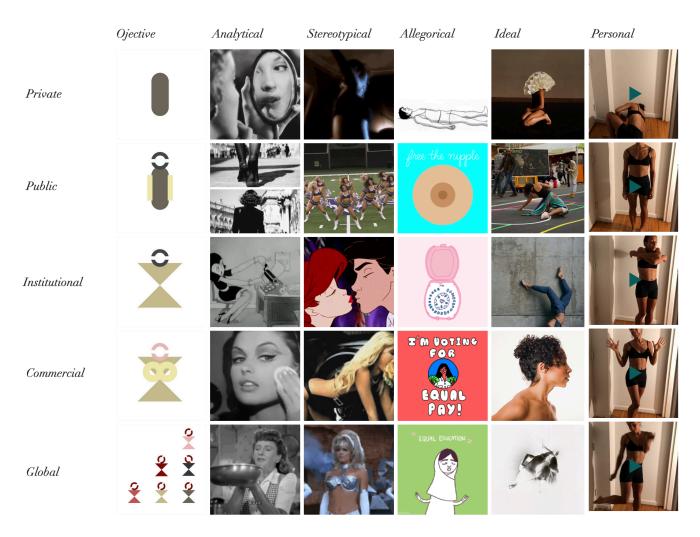
² Schwenkler, John. "The Objects of Bodily Awareness." Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy in the Analytic Tradition 162, no. 2 (2013): 465-72. http://www.jstor.org/stable/23356682.

³ Foucault, Michel. "The History of sexuality: Vol. 1, An Introduction.†New York, NY 1978

Synthesis Map A: Conditional Body

Our physical form is adaptive, evolutionary and most of all, always in motion. Even the subtleties of breath require a physical action or gesture.

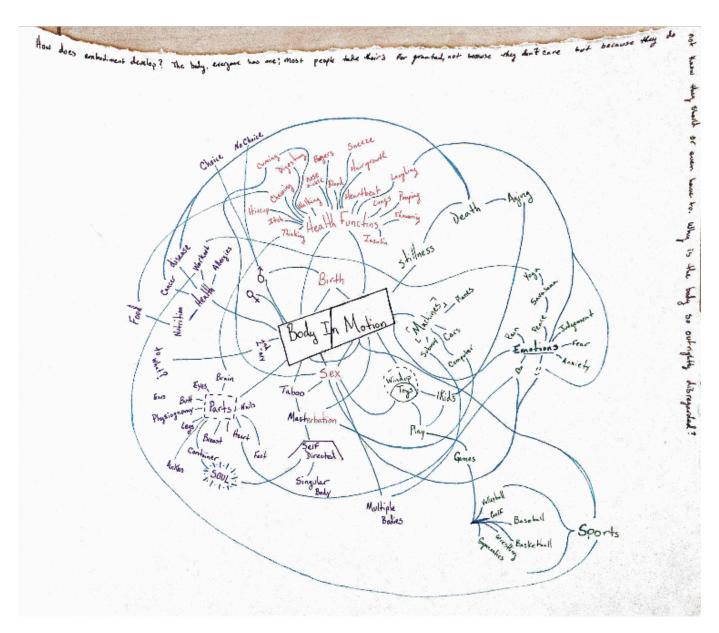
The 6th row, the personal row is performative. The videos displayed are documentation of the impulse of motivation: the moving body. The entire vignette is the gestural compilation of five audience perspectives of the body in motion.



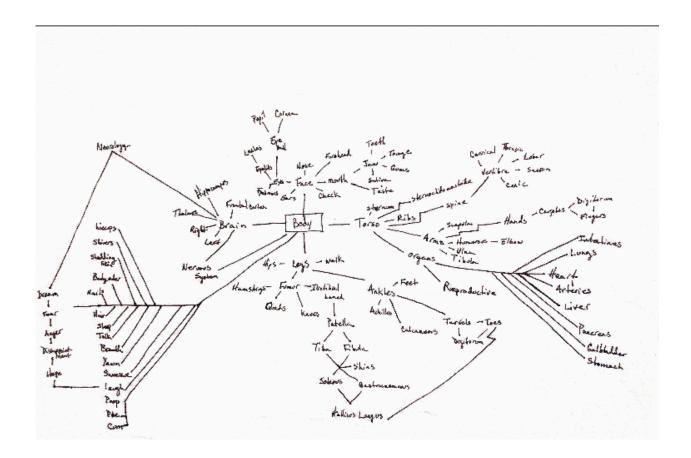
MAP A

Generative Mapping: Brainstorming 1 and 2

The two brainstorming maps below are a derived from the body in motion and it's many activities and the the body as specimen, its parts and systems.



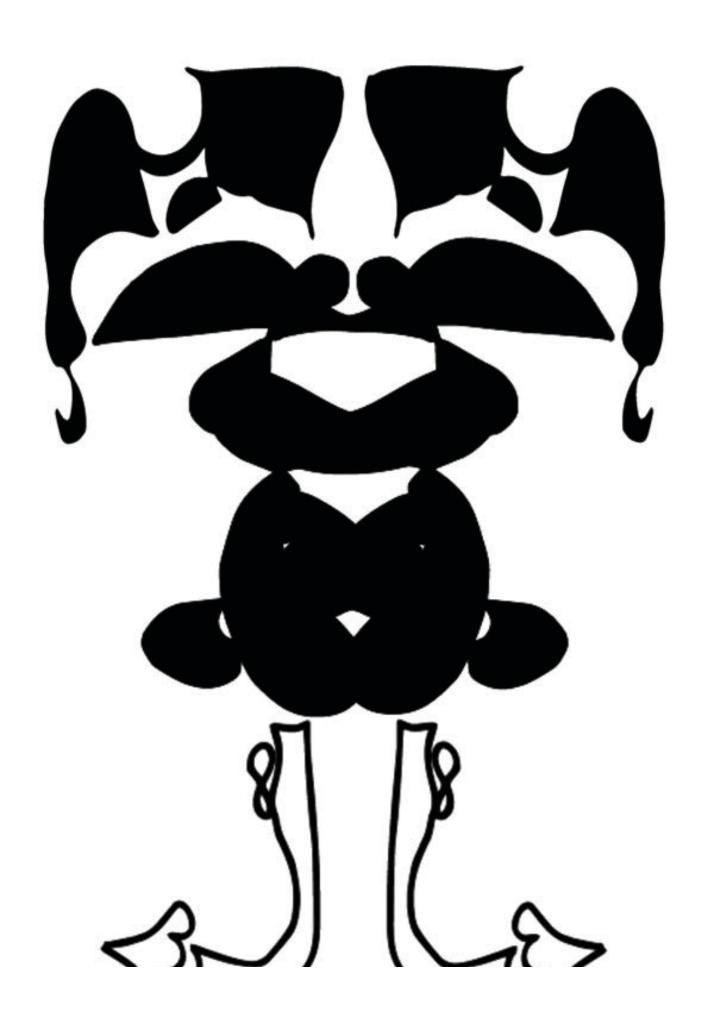
BRAINSTORM 1: BODY IN MOTION



BRAINSTORM 2: BODY PARTS & SYSTEMS

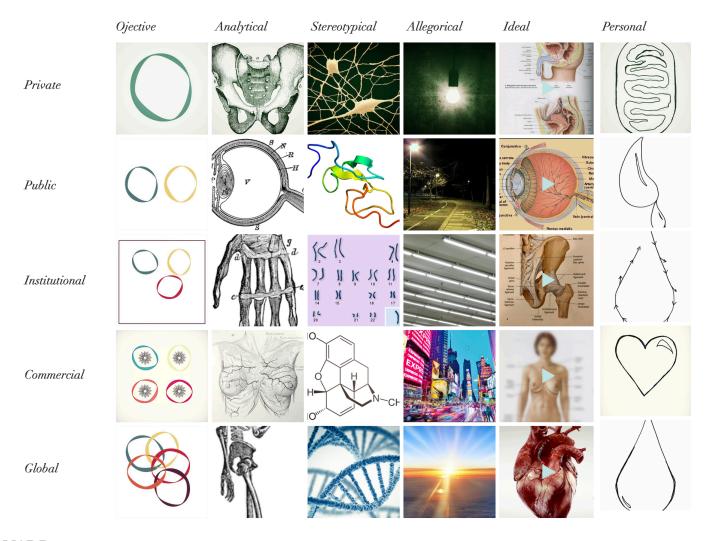
Generative Mapping: Exquisite Corpse

The physical form is adaptive, evolving but specific to the female form (not solely but more often) it also commodified. Why is the body outrightly disregarded as a topic of curiosity unless it is objectified and commodified? Let's examine, without gender, the body as specimen, the exquisite corpse.



Map B: Specimen Body

Inspired by the exquisite corpse, Map B is a look at the soma. The body as a system.



MAP B

5 PROJECTS

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks, we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, and through the bias of my feminine point of view, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the female embodiment and body ownership.

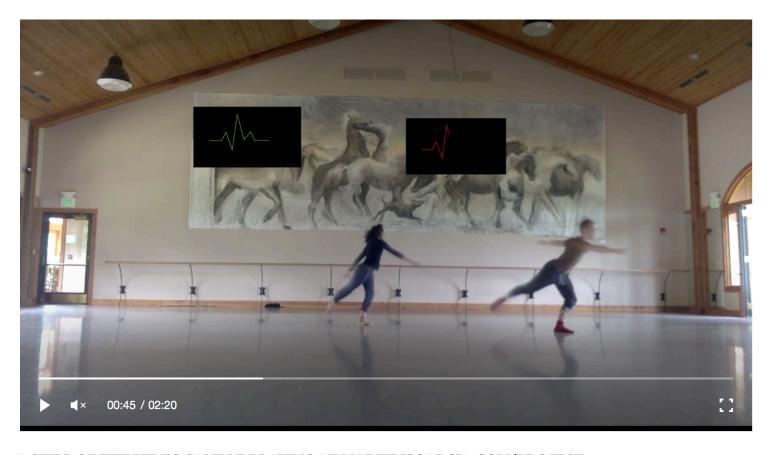
These projects all question what it means to be a viewer. By creating work that fosters a sensory awareness of movement within each person, I hope to highlight the potential kinesthetic interactions between the viewer and the work and from that encourage bodily autonomy within each viewer.

Project 1: It all has a Pulse

This work presents heart rates, dancing, and communal unity; using the heart as a trope for strength or courage, It all has a Pulse is probing at "evidence that diversity in perspectives amongst group members does not need to be overcome by unity in order for collaboration to take place." (Unity and Diversity article) This work investigates the basic life source of the body the heart, as well as one of the most contentious emotions, unity.

In a non traditional performative space, (ie: not a proscenium, dancers of various body types will wear a heart monitor that will project their heart rates through a rhythm strip publicly on a wall behind them as they perform unison choreography over an extended period of time. The viewer can watch the movement sequences and see the variations of heart beats, despite the unison of motion. Each dancer will be assigned a color, and their heart rate will be projected on the wall behind them in that color. Viewers would be able to match the heart rate with the dancer wearing that color.

Lastly, there will be the opportunity for viewers to contribute their heart-rates to the melange of pulses on the wall. Using three to five kiosks around the room, viewers can rest their hand on a monitor, and their recorded heart rate will be added to the various pulses on the wall. Each heart-rate kiosk will also have a color assigned to it, allowing participants to acknowledge their heart rate and it's variations. Having audience members contribute their heart rate generates bodily autonomy for the viewer, and the sense of unity with the performers.



A STILL OF THE VIDEO SAMPLE PLAYING AT MARIELISGARCIA.COM/PROJECT2



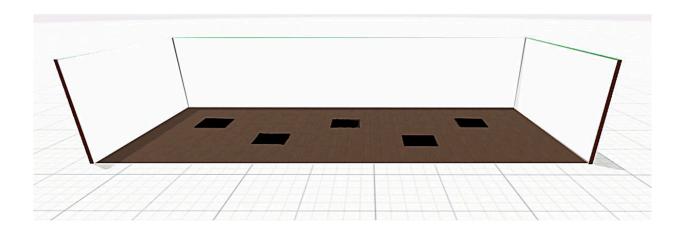
TYPE TO ENTER A CAPTION.

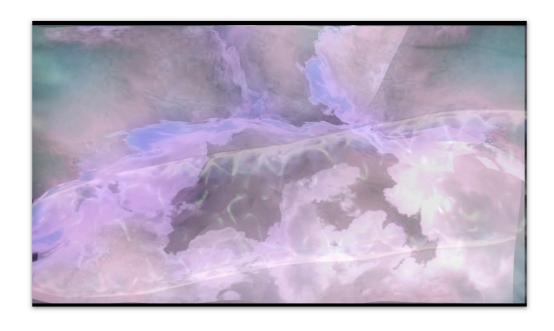
Project 2: Barley There

Though various health outlets have written articles about the benefits of meditation, less than a third of Americans actually practice meditative activities. This project invites the viewer to step into kinesthetic awareness through the electricity they conduct even when sitting still.

Throughout an open space there will be the replication of a standard yoga class layout. By posting simple signs on the wall, visitors will be invited to sit on the yoga mats and stay awhile. Each "yoga" mat will be painted/overlayed with energy conductive tape. Upon people interacting with the mats the heat of their body would illuminate a subtle video light show on the ceiling above.

The video is a gentle overlap of mystical clouds and microscopic video footage of human biological regenerative organisms.



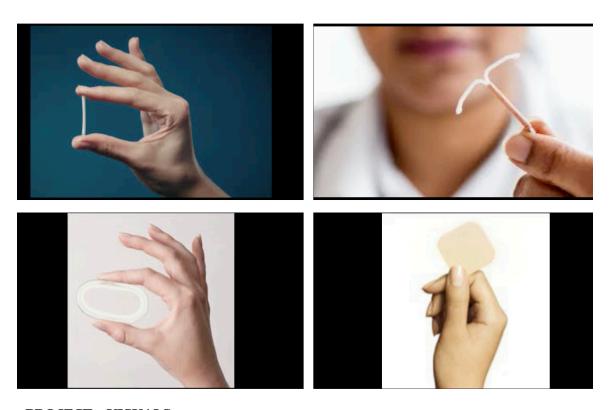


Project 3: Everything is Fine

62% of women in the U.S. use a form of female contraception. Throughout the years this number has grown. From inception female contraceptives have been controversial- the pill was tested on psychiatric patients and poor woman in puerto rico; the german physician Ernst Gräfenberg, was ousted by the Nazi Party because his IUD (Intrautrine Device) was a threat to Aryan race, the diaphragm in the mid 1800's was expensive and unavailable to unmarried woman...

Avoiding the male condom; this project seeks to highlight woman contraceptives. A true dichotomy exists between women having their choice of contraceptives, and yet those contraceptives are still not widely available. Even the simplest and cheapest form of contraception, the female condom "can sometimes be harder to find than traditional (Male) condoms. The only brand of female condom that's FDA approved and available in the U.S. is the FC2 Female Condom®. It's available online at the FC2 Female Condom® website, at health centers, and by prescription in drugstores." Why can't a woman walk into any store and buy female condoms as easily as we can the male condom?

In a dimly lit room, there would be various versions of women contraceptives. Upon being handled the accurately sized sculptures will light up using motion detection LED's. Fondling the contraceptives might make them feel more accessible, even though, they are not.



PROJECT 3 VISUALS

Project 4: DIY

In 2016, over \$16 billion was spent on on cosmetic surgery, also in 2016 Buttocks Lifts went up 252% in one year, in 2017 there were almost 600,000 hip replacements, - technological advances have allowed humans to ability to implant, replace, and improve the human body.

Looking at the various surgeries that are cosmetic, this project seeks to highlight the absurdity of social pressures to maintain/attain the perfect body through pharmaceutical and surgical procedures.

By creating an online shopping experience, where you can choose your own body parts including breasts, butt, hips, knees, calves and pacemaker (heart), I am promoting the Do-It-Yourself attitude without the actual work. Of coarse the packaging will be sleek and minimalist. People who order these body enhancements, will be paying for sleek packaging of their body parts.* The design on the box is derived from my generative mapping exquisite corpse sections.

*Please Note: this project is slightly inspired by Lucy Sparrow's shopping experiences, except through a mobile app. People can shop and order what they are interested in, and they will receive a limited supply DIY weighted box (the weight of each box will be in accordance to the body part they purchased).



Project 5: Askew

"No country in the world has reached gender equality." This project digs into the global disparity between males and females through a performative exhibition of imbalance and inequality.

The project is a series of evening events offering drinks, and performances. A seemingly blank darkly lit room, will transform once people put on masks. Ticket buyers will be given the choice to put on silicone masks that once donned will reveal brightly colored paint on the walls displaying the global economic, educational and power disparity between men and women.

In an effort to read the material on the walls, viewers will need to wear the mask, implying that only through the abolition of gender do we see the great asymmetry. Each evening will also consist of 3 to 4 performative exchanges- each one consisting of a singular female/female identifying performer entering the space, and asking a non-mask wearing viewer to dance with her. She, of course will lead.



IMAGE THE IMAGE ON THE MASK



PROJECT 5 VISUAL SAMPLE OF MASK



WHAT THE ROOM MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH MASK ON

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All Artist Statements for 7 Weeks of Development

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the body through 4 different points of view: the general, the literal, the biological, and societal iterative.

Our physical form is adaptive, evolutionary and most of all, always in motion. Even the subtleties of breath require a physical action or gesture.

This short performance will objectively display the impulse of motivation: the moving body. The entire vignette is the gestural compilation of five audience perspectives of the body in motion.

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks, we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the body through various perspectives.

Our physical form is adaptive, evolving and most of all, always in motion. Even the subtleties of breath require a physical action or gesture.

This short performance will personally display the impulse of motivation: the moving body. The entire vignette is the gestural compilation of the female body in motion.

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks, we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, and through the bias of my feminine point of view, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the female embodiment and body ownership. In the synthesis map I explore the conditional body.

The physical form is adaptive, evolving but specific to the female form (not solely but more often) it also commodified. Why is the body outrightly disregarded as a topic of curiosity unless it is objectified and commodified? Let's examine, without gender, the body as specimen, the exquisite corpse.

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks, we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, and through the bias of my feminine point of view, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the female embodiment and body ownership. In Synthesis Map A: I explore the conditional body.

The physical form is adaptive, evolving but specific to the female form (not solely but more often) it is also commodified. Why is the body outrightly disregarded as a topic of curiosity unless it is objectified and commodified? Through a series of drawings I generated body like representations, and created non-commodified maps of organisms.

In Synthesis Map B: I explore the specimen body, the exquisite corpse. It is a map of the body, exhibiting it's tangible parts, unobserved sustaining actions, and mystical references (ie: the soul). The body as I mapped it, revealed itself as the apotheosis of human potential.

In looking at the complexities of analytical frameworks, we need not go very far. Each human exists within one of the most complex systems: the body. Through a series of conceptual frameworks, and through the bias of my feminine point of view, I have created and compiled visuals that explore the female embodiment and body ownership. In Synthesis Map A: I explore the conditional body.

In Synthesis Map B: I explore the specimen body, the exquisite corpse. It is a map of the body, exhibiting it's tangible parts, unobserved sustaining actions, and mystical references (ie: the soul). The body as I mapped it, revealed itself as the apotheosis of human potential.

These 30 sentences are a collection looking at the binaries created from these two maps- Female vs. Human, Scientific vs. emotional/intrinsic, Soul vs. System, Physical experience vs. Homeostasis and Bodily Autonomy vs. societal implications.

This is a collection of potential projects looking at the binaries created from two maps depicting the the conditional body (female, modified or aged) and the specimen body (cellular regeneration, homeostasis, and development). Limited by my own point of view, these projects tackle female vs. human. We tend to be able to assess emotional and intrinsic wellbeing, yet, we tend to lack attention or interest in scientific, foreign, body. Where does the soul reside, and is that scientific? Do societal implications directly affect the way we attend to, take notice of and develop within our own bodies?

These projects all question what it means to be a viewer. By creating work that fosters a sensory awareness of movement within each person, I hope to highlight the potential kinesthetic interactions between the viewer and the work and from that encourage bodily autonomy within each viewer.

Project 1

It all has Pulse

This work investigates the basic life source of the body, the heart as well as one of the most contentious emotions, unity.

Using unison choreography over an extended period of time, dancers of various body types will wear a heart monitor that will project their heart rates publicly on a wall behind them. The viewer can watch the movement sequences and see the variations of heart beats, despite the unison of motion.

Project 2

Barely There

Though various health outlets have written articles about the benefits of yoga, only a third* of Americans actually practice yoga, and even less practice meditation. This project invites the viewer to step into kinesthetic awareness. Throughout an open space I will replicate the standard yoga class layout. Visitors will be invited to stay a while and practice on the Yoga Maps that are around the room. Each yoga mat will be painted using conductive tape. Upon people interacting with the mats the heat of their body would illuminate a subtle light show on the ceiling above.

Project 3

Everything is Fine

Why was information about the testing and creation of the contraceptive pill hidden? The discovery and testing of contraceptive drugs is clouded in mystery-and yet the pill is still used as a way of controlling the female body In a dimly lit room, there would be various versions of the containers that usually hold woman contraceptives. Upon being picked up- the areas where the pills would be will light up with led lights.

Project 4 DIY

Looking at the various surgeries that are cosmetic, this project seeks to highlight the absurdity of social pressures to maintain/attain the perfect body through pharmaceutical and surgical procedures. I hope to create a online shopping experience, where you can choose your own breast, butt, cheek bones and calves. Of coarse the packaging must be sleek and minimalist.

Project 5

Routine

This project exposing the breast and it's form. Highlighting it's utilitarian nature, the various breasts will light as passerbys walk through the hallway.

Using motion sensored lights, a hallway of lights will illuminate as the viewers pass by. Each light would be a different shaped breast. Silicon made and anatomically variated, the breasts will cast different lights based on their shape.

*** I question if this perpetuates societal ideals of the breast being the illuminator, or if it promotes the "free the nipple movement"? Am I also romanticizing the female form by using it as the illuminator?

Project 6

Rudimentarily Askew

This project digs into the economic disparity between males and females. By using oversized and slightly askew billboards the pay gap between men and women will be highlights, potentially causing viewers to squint as they walk into the room. The pay gap should make them viscerally uncomfortable.

This is a collection of potential projects looking at the binaries created from two maps depicting the the conditional body (female, modified or aged) and the specimen body (cellular regeneration, homeostasis, and development). Limited by my own point of view, these projects tackle female vs. human. We tend to be able to assess emotional and intrinsic wellbeing, yet, we tend to lack attention or interest in the scientific, foreign body. Where does the soul reside, and is that scientific? Do societal implications directly affect the way we attend to, take notice of and develop within our own bodies?

These projects all question what it means to be a viewer. By creating work that fosters a sensory awareness of movement within each person, I hope to highlight the potential kinesthetic interactions between the viewer and the work and from that encourage bodily autonomy within each viewer.

Project 1

It all has Pulse

This work investigates the basic life source of the body, the heart as well as one of the most contentious emotions, unity.

Using unison choreography over an extended period of time, dancers of various body types will wear a heart monitor that will project their heart rates publicly on a wall behind them. The viewer can watch the movement sequences and see the variations of heart beats, despite the unison of motion. On the edges of the room-audience members will be able to press their hands on a panel including their heartbeat to the collection of pulses in the room.

Project 2 Barely There

Though various health outlets have written articles about the benefits of yoga, only a third* of Americans actually practice yoga, and even less practice meditation. This project invites the viewer to step into kinesthetic awareness. Throughout an open space I will replicate the standard yoga class layout. Visitors will be invited to stay a while and practice on the Yoga Maps that are around the room. Each yoga mat will be painted using conductive tape. Upon people interacting with the mats the heat of their body would illuminate a subtle light show on the ceiling above.

Project 3

Everything is Fine

Why was information about the testing and creation of the contraceptive pill hidden? Because of The discovery and testing of contraceptive drugs is clouded in mystery- and yet the pill is still used as a way of controlling the female body. Who has access and who doesn't? How often have people willingly held the various forms of female centric contraception?

In a dimly lit room, there would be various versions of the containers that usually hold woman contraceptives. Upon being picked up- the areas where the pills would be will light up with led lights.

Project 4 DIY

Looking at the various surgeries that are cosmetic, this project seeks to highlight the absurdity of social pressures to maintain/attain the perfect body through pharmaceutical and surgical procedures. I hope to create a online shopping experience, where you can choose your own breast, butt, cheek bones and calves. Of coarse the packaging must be sleek and minimalist.

Project 5 Askew

This project digs into the economic disparity between males and females. A seemingly blank room, will actually have the global gender pay gap disparities painted on the walls upside down or sideways. Viewers will be offered silicon masks that once donned will reveal the disturbing global figures. In an effort to read the material on the walls, viewers will need to alter their body positions, bend over, squint. The pay gap should make them viscerally uncomfortable.

30 Statements

- 1.1- A series of "portraits" (circles) named after the person they are portraying.
- 2.1- A public park, open and shared, whose topography is the body of a woman.
- 3.1 In all settings, all seats are assigned either Male or Female.
- 4.1 Anything being sold has to be marked by symbol for what gender it was most aggressively marketed to.
- 5.1 A global group, comprised of women or woman identifying, that support the development and growth of each other.
- 1.2 A mirrored hallway with sliding screen of clothed crotches at average eye level asking "How do I look?"
- 2.2 A visible digital tally on women's asses and breast everytime someone looks at those body parts.
- 3.2 Women dressed in black dresses and garter belts in a construction site building the next housing project, jail, or hospital.
- 4.2 A room of women "getting ready" applying makeup (foundation, eyeliner, mascara, lipstick) to their breasts.
- 5.2 Skeletons, stripped of all gender identifying features, making a meal.
- 1.3 A woman wearing only underwear looking through a microscope at her own DNA.
- **2.3** Collected women skin cells, used to create the perfect skin quality, then worn by women like a unitard.
- 3.3 A dating app that lists your chromosomal specifications.
- 4.3 A beautiful woman in a bathing suit, and pharmaceutical jacket talking about her latest opioid trip.
- 5.3 A woman throwing one of her eggs (potentially Frozen) at any mansplainer.
- 1.4 Lying in Savasana on top of an orb lit floor.
- 2.4 Light posts with various nipple variations that illuminate the sidewalks at night. Each nipple shape will cast a different light.
- 3.4 Woman getting birth control delivered to their cubicle.
- 4.4 All advertising placed on Times square billboards are decided by women, or woman identifying humans.

5.4 -

- 1.5 Coming of age comfortable with sexuality, and supported through gender identifying process.
- 2.5 Open to the public, lasik eye surgeries.
- 3.5 Would dismantling traditional work environments prevent sedentary behaviours?

- 4.5 Selling Isolated breast implants, in nice packaging. Get your implants, and find your own doctor you can trust!
- 5.5 A shared pacemaker, a shared heartbeat, among a group of people.
- 1.6 A series of movements (usually done in private), performed tracing the outline of the mitochondria.
- 2.6 Blood donations on the subway.
- 3.6 100+ performers coming in and out of a constantly moving circle in a room, completing an essential task and joining back in.
- 4.6 A woman will dance naked for you, she only takes payments in heart shaped objects.
- 5.6 Culturally investigated dance movements, performed for 24hrs, drinking water through a camelback like hose attached to the performer.

Binaries

Female vs. Human Scientific vs. emotional/intrinsic Soul vs. System Physical experience vs. Homeostasis Bodily Autonomy vs. Self preservation