

*lamb.*

82080822

Willie Rose Petal - [notherpes.org](http://notherpes.org)

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*lamb.* is a confrontation of the human animal, a contemplation on the violence it is subjected to, and an all encompassing multidisciplinary work that places the viewer in a conceptual reconstruction of the artist's own ruin.

Utilising formal degradation against her own work as a structural symbolic force, the artist melds her experience of pain with her training as a biologist to evoke an atmosphere of carnage and brutality across various forms. As an installation and durational performance, it chronicles Petal's psychosis and psychiatric admission following rape, domestic abuse, and three surgeries. *lamb.* is presented through endurance, text, visual, and sonic components:

#### R A C

At the centre of the space lies the artist's trans body as meat. Surrounded by wool, and clutching shears in penitential meditation for six hours a day, Petal holds absolving silence for all who devoured her. Each hour, she turns toward one of six clusters of paintings – the Seals of Revelation – marking time as ritual.

#### T T

Two epistolary grimoires bookend the room – ingestion in the north, defecation in the south. In these grotesque leather bound accounts of unravelling, Petal's hypergraphia born of psychosis becomes the medium, capturing the sound and visual works in time – both before and after her admission. The *lamb.* series sits as primary source material inside the pseudo academic field of Lexicomythography – a metafictional transmedia universe of the artist's own creation, which includes an ergodic novel of 100,000 words, downloadable in PDF format, allowing the work to escape the space and be explored by viewers on leaving. [X]

#### S A L

In the remaining directions of the room's clock face, paintings in oil, layered over underpaintings of sterilised blood and saliva, hang on reclaimed wood and clustered into six groups, representing each of the Seals opened by the Lamb in the book of Revelation. Scarred by burning, chiselling, scratching, nailing, and stitching, the visual pieces sew together the artist's cycle of trauma.

#### S O

Finally, Petal's full length album punctuates the experience, optionally accessed in a track per piece modality, or as an elegiac totality while walking the Slaughterhouse Raceway. *lamb.*'s album welds the work into a mythopoeic whole – an exegesis on trauma recovery, through redemptive suffering of trans embodiment.

Through this culmination of efforts, Petal uncomfortably attempts to purge her assailant's rabid

