

Dominic Burkart

Performance Portfolio

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Becoming a Rose from Worn

photographs by Jessica Borusky

Becoming a Rose considered the demands and expectations associated with gender using aesthetics of emulation, recreation, and consumption to criticize how my transness is commodified, denigrated, and coopted in my personal life and in contemporary culture. The tableau of a kitchen (with fabric acting as a tablecloth, silverware, flour, eggs, food dye, rose water, and bowls) is transformed using shears, gardening tape, and blush into a recreation of a blooming rose bush: I begin by eating pink, store-bought frosting from the package with a teaspoon before moving on to applying blush while staring at a miniature roshbush, placed adjacently to a mirror with a pink plastic frame. I then extend the application of blush to all exposed skin, before attempting to match the hue of the rose's petals with a paste I mix from egg, flour, water, and food coloring. I then apply the paste to the remaining portions of my body that have not been rendered pink. I then collect the silverware and the cloth to add thorns and leaves, respectively, to my emulation. I then spritz rose water into my face with every breath to complete the emulation. Duration: 2 hours, 15 minutes.

The affect of this work was lonely, dysphoric, and quietly intimate.

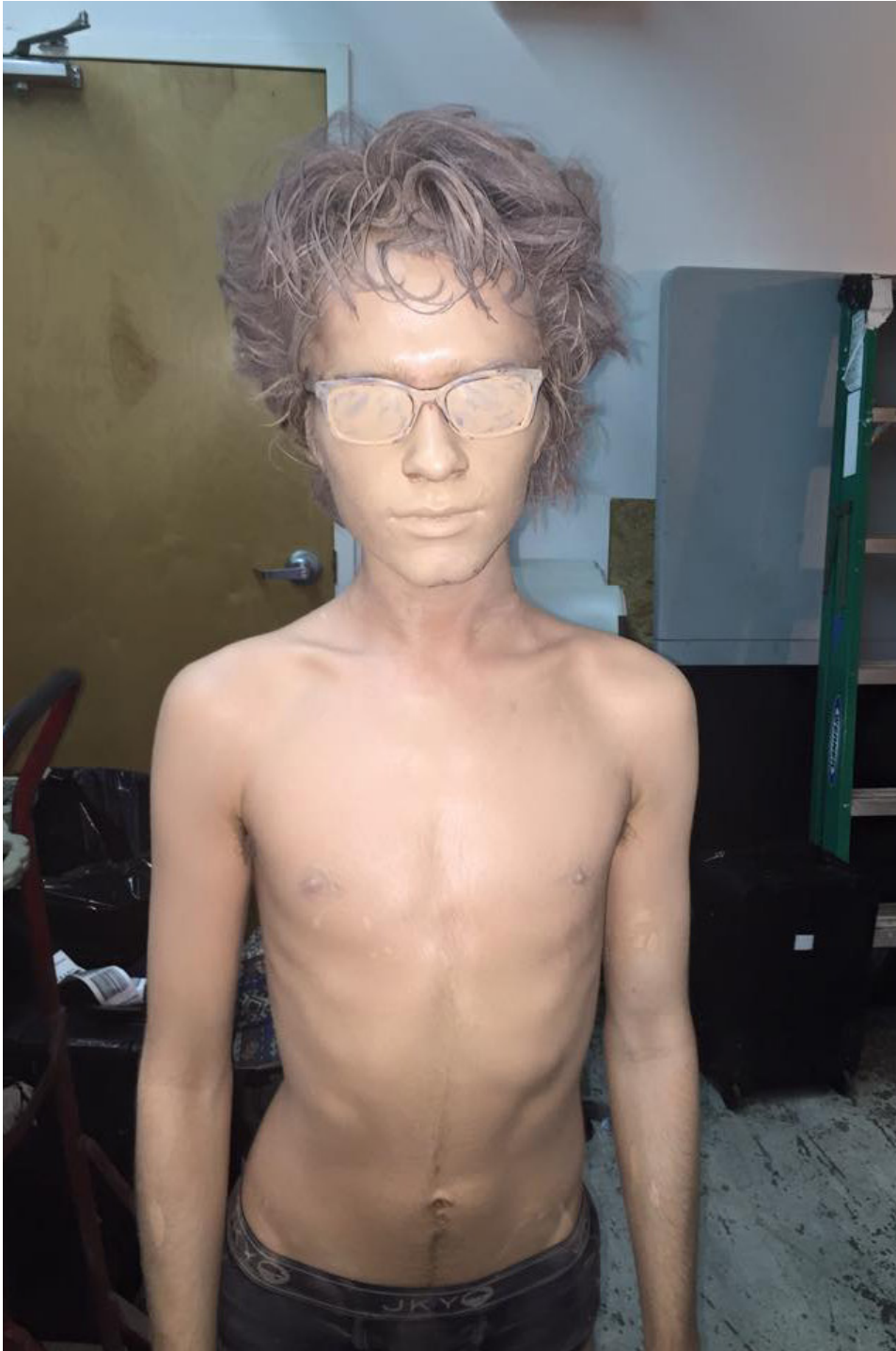
Worn was a performance art exhibit in The Drugstore (3948 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri) on May 20th, 2016 featuring the artists Christina Silvius, Wolfgang Bucher, Lauren Schrader, Alexa Ditrollo, Dominic Burkart, and Christie Thomason.







Foundation



photographs by Creighton Baxter (left), Lauren Schrader (next), and Wolfgang Bucher (subsequent pages).

Foundation was the application of one container of foundation makeup to my body over the course of thirty to forty-five minutes. I attempted to shatter the bottle of foundation to access all of the material, which was successful in all but one performance. The performance ends when all of the material has been applied.

This work discussed the unsustainability of unmoderated material consumption, both in being and in the formation of identity or construction of beauty. The transformation of a body into a static object- turning people into statues- is a dangerous and dehumanizing task that requires dedication and resources at the expense of the subject's agency- what is lost is precisely their ability to be a subject instead of an object.

Foundation thus reminds us that the commodification and aestheticization of humans always has violent capacities, and that the abuse of finite resources is a product of the dissociation of humans and their needs as physical, social animals.





