

Melon Fernsebner
(773) 505-8666
Email: sferns@artic.edu
Portfolio: <https://cwoodsportfolio.com/melonsite>

Artist Statement

I use clay to adapt the body I was given; to extend and abstract the form I was assigned. The weighted material that makes up my identity is parallel to the malleable quality of the clay. I use the potter's wheel and performative handbuilding together to push the greenware body while still retaining a form suggestive of the vessel. This process relates similarly to the trans* body which has undergone personal transitional experiences. Undergoing multiple firings, the clay body adapts and reacts to its environment, similar to my own experiences of passing socially. Working in the fine art context that this creates, my ceramics are trans* chameleons that adapt to the spaces they are in - even after firing. As objects that continue to grow throughout their lives of appropriated function, these ceramics inherit new glaze or treatments as they age, as the body, as the trans* body. By relating performatively and bodily to the vessels I create, I work with clay's ability to express its trans*ness through an unending performative process.

Awards

- 2020 School of The Art Institute of Chicago Honors Scholarship Spring Semester
- 2019 School of The Art Institute of Chicago Honors Scholarship Spring Semester
- 2019 James and Dorothy Teague Scholarship
- 2019 Rupprecht Scholarship for Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency
- 2019 Work Study Scholarship for Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency
- 2018 Arthur Griffin Foundation Scholarship (Winchester MA)
- 2018 School of The Art Institute of Chicago Honors Scholarship Fall Semester
- 2018 James and Dorothy aTeague Scholarship

Skills

- Creative Writing
- Painting
- Drawing
- Performance and Movement
- Hand Building Ceramics
- Glazing Ceramics
- Firing Ceramics
- Curating Art
- Organization
- Planning
- Communication

Work History

- 2020 Clark's Reality Gallery: The First Show (clarksrealitygallery.com)
- 2020 The Justice Hotel 6018 North (Chicago)
- 2019 School of The Art Institute of Chicago ARTBASH (Chicago)
- 2019 NoMads Art Collective The Forge Gallery (Chicago)
- 2018 Agitator Gallery Nook (Chicago)
- 2018 SITE Galleries Siragusa Studios (Chicago)

Education

- 2019 Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency
- 2018 Winchester High School Graduate
- 2018 -2022 School of The Art Institute of Chicago