





*"Eat Me"*, selected for *CONTRAST: A Juried Exhibition* at Thornback Gallery in Greenville, SC, 2025

Created as a part of a larger body of work investigating the discomfort of performative identity, *'Eat Me'* was intended as a meditation on vulnerability through self-portraiture. The notion of offering one's body as a vessel is a demeaning gesture. However, *Eat Me* developed into something more confrontational over the course of its creation. It became daring, almost vindictive, trapping the viewer and providing a spoon for them to... eat from the artist's mouth? The notion is ludicrous.

In contrast, the visual language is quite sweet. Sugary cereal, a clean spoon, and a context of nothing more than candy-pink space to cloak the scene in a seductive invitation. It's not accusatory, but alluring: *I dare you*, with eye contact and passive permission, *to engage with this moment*.

*'Eat Me'* could be powerful as a performance piece. In the intensely methodical drawing process, combining colored pencil, gesso, and expired makeup, there is self-given grace. Were I, the artist, to lay on a gallery floor and invite attendees to eat cereal out of my mouth... it would be shocking, yet also fleeting. By capturing the moment up close, focusing on the interplay of light and shadow, the clashing narrative of indulgence and disturbance, I prolong that contact and allow for the viewer to linger in that moment. How better to engage with the bitter discomfort of social performance than by cloaking it in pink and making it sweeter?