The Comfort Of Restraint

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BSA 2020 Capstone Collection
INTRODUCTION

Art has been a passion of mine more or less since birth. It only became a dream job when I reached sixth grade and decided I wanted to become a master jewelry designer. I pursued that dream until my sophomore year of college. At that point, I was in my second semester of metalworking and jewelry design classes, and I was miserable. I was accepted into the jewelry and metalworking major and was doing what I had dreamed of for nearly a decade, but I was miserable. I was suffering mental breakdowns of magnitude so great that people were walking me out of the art building and over to the on-campus shrink’s office to ensure I wouldn’t hurt myself, and I was having them alarmingly often.

It was that semester I elected to change my major to something that would let me ‘dick around the course book.’

Next semester, I was diagnosed with anxiety, depression, and adjustment disorder. While not formally diagnosed, I was told that the chance of my being autistic was incredibly high. I was also found to have chemical sensitivities that, if I wasn’t careful, could leave me with a respirator on full-time. Mental health and self-care became a theme found in many of my pieces. My goal as an artist became less about fame and mastery, and more about enjoying myself and the processes used to make pieces I was proud of. I began making things that would carry messages, or that could help educate people about unknown topics.

Like bondage.

ARTIST STATEMENT

This collection of work was created to draw attention to a side of the bondage-dominance-sadism-masochism, or BDSM, community that is usually portrayed as unwilling victims in mainstream media. The subs and masochists of the BDSM community are not victims caught by sick and twisted sadists who are secretly serial killers, like pop culture would have you believe. They enter relationships willingly and happily, which I represent through a calm and serene surrogate character. She is there because she wants to be, not because anyone is making her, and she is enjoying herself while she's there. Additionally, I chose to represent BDSM in a more chaste light. Contrary to popular belief, BDSM is not exclusively sexual. It can be
practiced in nonsexual ways that serve as coping mechanisms. This isn’t to say that the sexual practices and coping mechanisms are mutually exclusive, but that I chose to focus on the chaste and nonsexual for my work. Daily life can be overwhelming with its responsibilities, and society can be scary with its expectations, while BDSM can provide a temporary escape where one can recuperate and enjoy themselves. BDSM is supposed to be safe, sane, and consensual, with no victims or unwilling participants, and used for pleasure and comfort. These are the main three points I hope to convey with my collection.

**PIECE LIST**

1) “Submissive”
2) “Aftercare”
3) “Out Of Sight” diptych
   a. “Societal Shame”
   b. “Private Princess”
4) “In Your Hands”
5) “Perfect Happiness”
6) “Communication”
7) “Indulge Me”
8) “Safe Space”
9) “Trust To Stop”
10) “Don’t Think, Just Feel Good”
“Submissive” – printmaking inks on hand-pulled bamboo paper
“Aftercare” – acrylic paint on canvas paper
“Out Of Sight A: Societal Shame” – multimedia on cardstock
“Out Of Sight B: Private Princess” – multimedia on cardstock
“In Your Hands” – multimedia on Arches cover
“Perfect Happiness” – multimedia on cardstock
“Communication” – multimedia on hand-pulled blue denim paper
“Indulge Me” – multimedia on Arches cover
“Safe Place” – multimedia on cardstock
“Trust To Stop” – hemp, plastic beads, and copper medallion
“Don’t Think, Just Feel Good” – multimedia on Arches cover