

## Terri Thomas - Statement of Intent

My work is interdisciplinary, disclosing autobiographical narratives obscured within constructed themes that explore issues of power and self-preservation. As a twin, I grew up observing how societal expectations evolved due to the media negating individual identity by over-sexualizing and stereotyping *identicals* in advertising for the sake of selling product. Combined with a career in the fashion industry, I was deeply concerned with the media's ascribed, limiting, idyllic template of *Woman* in society. Eventually, I became interested in how we are conditioned to desire, identify with and be informed externally and by the media.

There's an element of performance in the work. I stage my body for photographs to create large paintings, and incorporate mixed media sculpture to examine notions of physiognomy, otherness, desire and duality. Life-sized portraiture, masquerade, parody or self-satire is implemented for the work to act as a mirror, often using perversity, confrontation or humor to reflect inherent contrast, absurdity or poignancy.

The aim of my efforts is to create a space for inner reconciliation. Consequently, my images and sculptures are agonistic. Using banter between societal and art historical ideologies, conflicting narratives, double-entendre and subjects that seem to move in and out of a perceived power, my work underscores the tension between dominance and passivity, emancipation and subjugation, revealing and concealing, anti-aesthetics and strategies of beauty, sincerity and mocking critique that only the viewer can resolve.