

Haley Mitchell

@haleykbitchell
haleykaymitchell@gmail.com

Artist Statement

I create work to honor daily rituals and domestic spaces by creating garments and replicating everyday objects. My process is informed by experiencing monotonous tasks without the dullness of habit. I do this by utilizing found objects, reinterpreting what surrounds me, or finding inspiration from my everyday experiences. The value of common spaces and objects is determined by their constant use, familiarity, and their associations in our lives. Utility is a theme I investigate in my garments and the implications of their use. The root of my practice is the careful consideration of my everyday circumstances, especially those I share with my community. Mundane experiences such as brushing teeth or grocery shopping are universal practices that comprise the majority of our collective lives and therefore connect us together.

I create using a variety of traditional fiber mediums such as sewing and papermaking while experimenting with new mediums regularly. The introduction of new craft mediums into my work allows me to experience being a novice at a craft. This allows me to approach my work with playfulness and experimentation that is reminiscent of childhood art making. This mode of working allows me to resist the monotony of habit. Nostalgia plays a key role in my creative process, as many of the daily rituals I explore have origins in childhood.

As I explore domesticity, I think of wearables as homes for our bodies. In the same way, someone's medicine cabinet speaks to who someone is, so does clothing. Our bodies and their presentation are reflective of society as a whole. During my making process, I synthesize societal impacts on myself and those around me into an object that is common in daily life. This mode of communication serves as a starting point for dialogue about larger social and political issues such as COVID-19 and body expectations. Social and political norms uniquely impact everyone's daily experience and I hope that my work facilitates conversations about individual experiences. As a result, I make work informed by nostalgia, habits, and my own lived experience as a human in a body— in a home.