

Lily Bacon

Sajad Amini

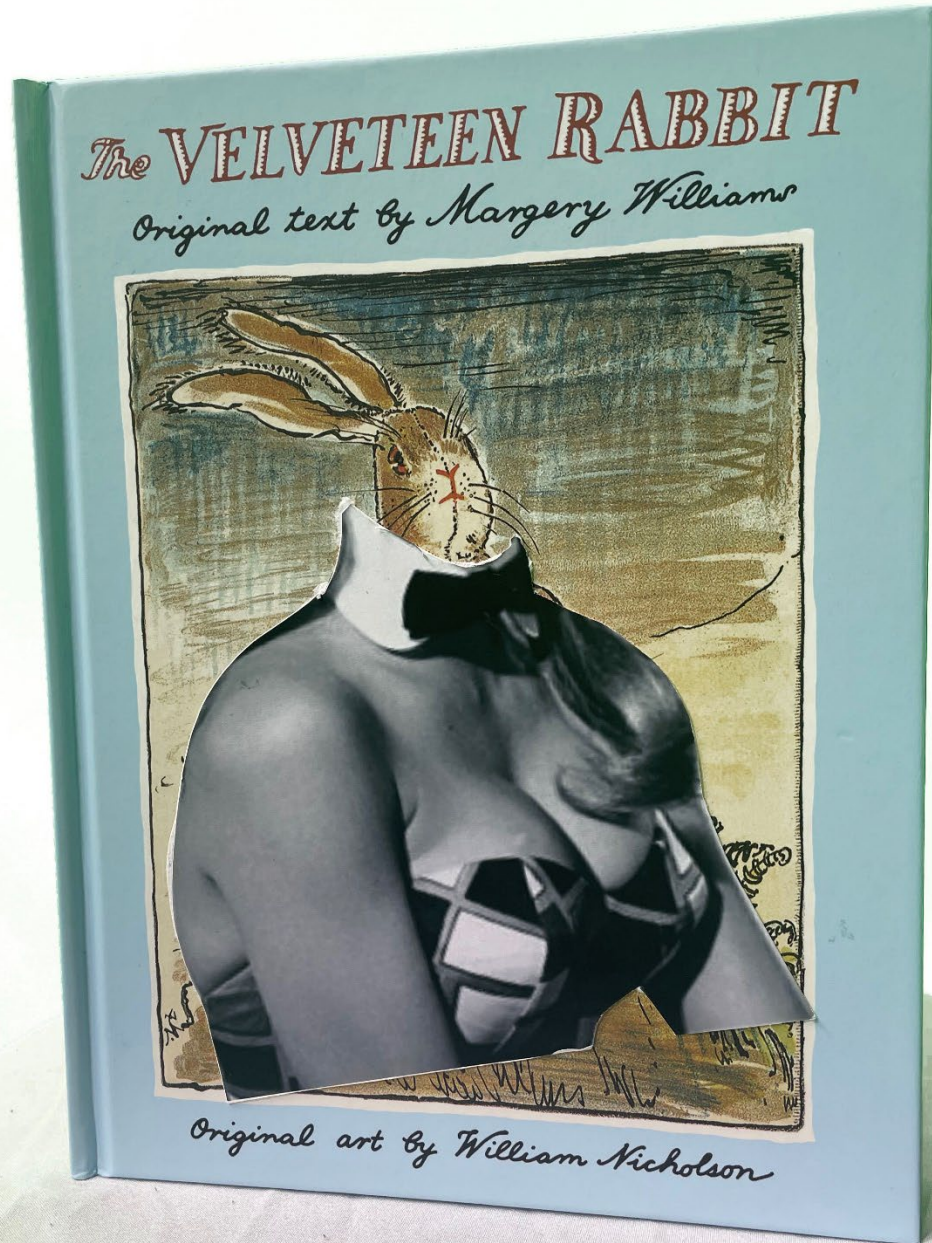
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Project 3 – Artist Book: How to Become Real

For my project, *How to Become Real*, I wanted to critique the ways our society upholds its standards for women even before they have grown up. As a young girl, you are met with these ideals as soon as you're born, and they creep their way into everything you consume. I approached this concept by using a children's book and redacting certain sections to create new context for the textual elements and adding collage pieces from magazines and other advertisements. The book I chose to use for my found text was *The Velveteen Rabbit*. It's a book I grew up reading that has been around since the 1920s. I used Pinterest to find the pieces for my collage, and took those photos into Adobe Photoshop to resize, crop, and arrange them before printing. Using the actual copy of *The Velveteen Rabbit* for the form of my project rather than scanning it and creating my own book emphasizes the way young women, even children, are subliminally informed of the expectations laid out for them and their bodies as they grow and learn. Combined with the images used for the collage, it also emphasizes the sometimes pedophilic nature of many of the body standards we see in place for women today. *The Velveteen Rabbit* is not only a fantasy children's book about a stuffed animal, but the main human character is a little boy and not a girl. Redacting parts of the text to convey a new message paired with the images completely decontextualized the found text and allowed it to communicate the new concept I wanted to convey. I did connect some of the images to the source material by including rabbits and Playboy imagery as an aesthetic choice, and you are able to see some of the

text through the redaction to make the project feel more homemade, as if the torn pages and Sharpie markings were done by a young girl, angry at the world and her book for the things they taught her. The physical book encourages the viewer to read it like a story, rather than view it like an art piece. By using a children's book, you are invited in by the cover of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and met with the true title, *How to Become Real*, on the inside. Then, you are guided through the story of a young girl coming into the knowledge of her fate as a woman.



"If You Want To Be Popular..." **BE SKINNY!"**

[REDACTED] forgotten.

[REDACTED] naturally shy

[REDACTED] looked down upon

**LOOK
SEXY!**

could not claim to be a model





LADIES IT IS YOUR DUTY TO BE BEAUTIFUL



the wonderful day was Real. He thought of the Skin Horse, wise and gentle, and all that he had told him. Of what use was it to lose one's beauty and become Real if...? And a real fear, his little shadow, nose and fell to the ground.

And then something happened. Here the... leaves a blossom and in... like a... the little blossom were wa... opened, and she was... hole world... drops, and...



When the Fairy kissed him that last night she
had changed him altogether. And he might



too shy to move.
He picked his nose
he was doing his
...
...ully had kind legs
...e had brown fur
...ed by themselves
...but they brought
...the joy of using
...ent springs

...as the others did, ...

...she had gone.

Real ... at last, ...

...

**Keep her where
she belongs...**



