

Artist's statement

My installations are inspired by the dissimulation that homosexuality can induce. Will someone who reveals that he or she is queer still provoke surprise, disgust or mockery in this day and age? I'm interested in the linguistic ambiguities that hide or reveal one's identity, such as double entendres, puns and bad translations. I draw inspiration from literature – novels, poems, songs, plays and comic books openly dealing with sexual identity; I also manipulate stereotypes drawn from popular culture.

My creative process begins with the collection of objects and texts: books, postcards, maps, souvenirs, trinkets and toys. I choose those that appear to embody identity stereotypes, where women are mothers, saints or sex symbols and men are toreadors, stallions or womanizers. To this end, souvenirs and popular songs fascinate me.

In the studio, I work on those objects using a variety of processes, often covering them with gesso, plaster or paint to hide some parts and reveal others. Doing so alters their connotation: toys may become threatening, party balloons disgusting, and so on. Combining images, words and materials, my artwork changes the initial meaning of the objects they contain or refer to.

My installations are overly busy environments. The festive atmosphere attracts, but the precarious way that elements are held in place creates a feeling of tension. Visitors may explore, sit down and take the time to read the texts. I hope to provoke ambiguous feelings: curiosity and disgust, fascination and awkwardness, entertainment and annoyance. Seeing how gender identity is portrayed in culture and media, is laughter the best medicine?