

Nonbinary | Leah Corbett

SMFA Senior Thesis 2017

Artist Bio

Leah Corbett is a nonbinary, queer photographer and artist, focused specifically on conceptual portraiture. Using a mixture of film and digital photography, they aim to address social issues and themes in their work, such as: gender nonconformity, identity, queerness, unconventional relationships and family, and the idea of home. The intimacy between subject and photographer is vital. In their attempt to break down classic power dynamics, collaboration with subjects in performance and representation of the authentic allows for a three-dimensional narrative to be spotlighted.

Artist Statement

Nonbinary is a photographic wall installation that aims to address the relationship between gender expression and gender identity, and create space for gender non-conforming people to live fully and authentically.

Gender is always evolving to incorporate folks that identify outside of the binary of "male" and "female". Yet with that, new stereotypes have formed from society's desire to categorize all identities into simplified, comprehensible genres. Gender nonconforming, genderqueer, gender-fluid, and agender-identifying people now have pressure to fit into what is becoming a fixed aesthetic of the "nonbinary" – an aesthetic that often equates "genderless" presentation with white masculinity. I'm interested in first exploring the varying ways that nonbinary people defy these new rules by separating gender expression from gender identity. Second, Nonbinary creates a space in which these identities are voiced in fashion, advertising, and art. Finally, third, this work explores intimate connections with my subjects by doing weekend "residencies" in which I stay at their home and converse, connect, and develop our relationship through medium format photographs. These will provide insight into how the two of us relate, as photographer and subject and as queer, gender nonconforming individuals. All of these images - digital "fashion" photographs and medium format "intimate" photographs – are collaged together in order to create an immersive experience.

This work is looking to expand people's vocabulary: what does gender and identity mean to us as singular beings, and as beings involved in many different communities? I want people to discover and question all of the binaries we are consumed by every day. Why do they exist? Are they helping? Why is it critical that we break outside of them? Instead of providing answers, I offer visual variations to the "norm". Ultimately, through the portrayal of individual gender nonconforming narratives, this work aims to let stories speak for themselves in a new world where gender as we know it can be left at the door.







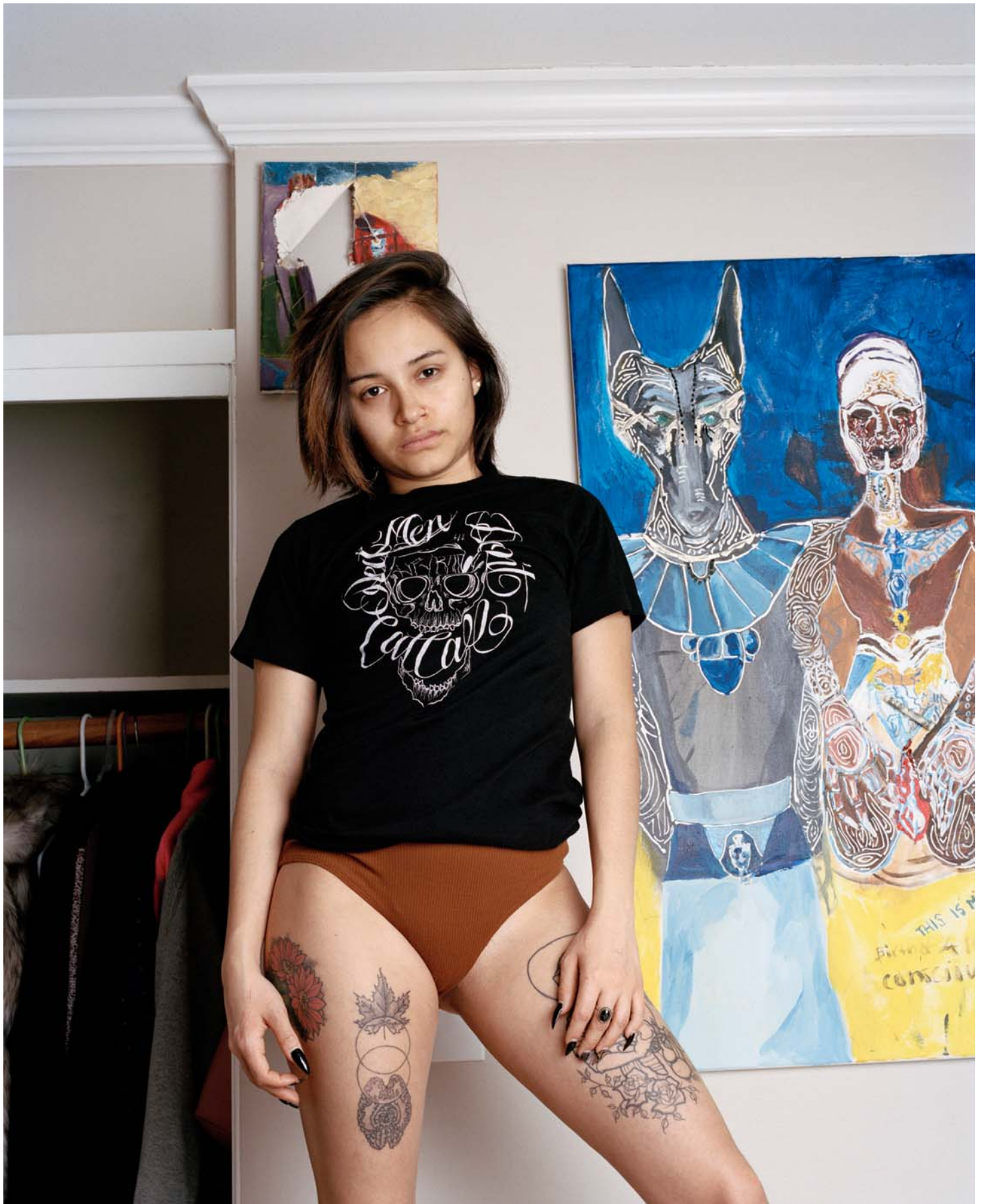


















Rit us by "providing" responses, when really everything is ours & those bastards stole it!

Dec, 8, 16 → on flies by The Motherpeace Tarot is a wise oracle. a clear that constantly shows the truest face.

I talk about adornment a lot it's how I signal to other queer people, poc & witches - buttons, shirts, tattoos, adornment & appearance as long wages, eg scarification

what happens when you show people your scars/wounds

How you keep "watch" or be mindful. How you tribute.

of nature, what you can offer ancestors

self

adornment

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what happens in a classroom or private spaces? References [] ()

writing/drawing and art-making is a form of literacy - an experiential context/talking in codes & memory

