

# AM I THAT NAME?

*Am I that Name?* is a body of work that aims to educate rather than define by proposing new ways of thinking about sex, gender, and social constructs through the creative power of artistic activism.

The project offers a broader understanding that queer is a fundamental part of being.



Before the middle of the nineteenth century, the terms homosexual and heterosexual referred to practices rather than identity.

During Britain's colonial period, homosexuality emerged as a derivative or a lower form of the dominant heterosexuality.

Through the creation of legal and cultural constructs, "the homosexual" as a lesser variation became inseparable from "the heterosexual" by which it was defined.

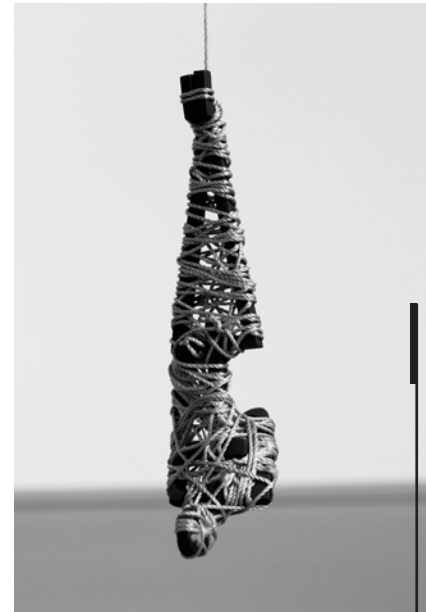
*Incomprehensible without its Normal Twin*, 49" x 10" x 5.5", steel, wallpaper, leather, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2021

## 02

*To be, or not to be, a 'woman'*



*Am I that Name?* 22" x 54" x 15", car jack, steel, wallpaper, leather, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2021



## 03

Elasticity is one of the fundamental characteristics of queer; its very nature is fluid. Thus, this series of artwork is faulty, even pointless, in its endeavor to exact queerness through form.



*What Exactly it is*, 55" x 24" x 5", steel, wallpaper, string, iron nail, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2020



Photo Credit: Melissa Lukenbaugh/Tulsa Artist Fellowship

Meet the Artist

## Shelby Head

Shelby Head is a 2020-22 Tulsa Artist Fellow. Head has worked in public art, exhibited widely in galleries, alternative spaces, and art fairs and is the recipient of numerous art residencies, fellowships, and grants.

This project is supported by Tulsa Artist Fellowship. With the belief that the arts are critical to the advancement of cultural citizenship, Tulsa Artist Fellowship supports both local and national artists while enriching the Tulsa community. Tulsa Artist Fellowship is a George Kaiser Family Foundation initiative.

This project has been supported by a grant from the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.



An Inherently Untidy Experience, 61" x 12" x 12", vise, steel, wallpaper, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2021

04

not neatly organized or carried out

/,ən'ti:di/, adj

un·ti·dy  
un·ti·dy

06

Gender is essentially a performative act associated with male or female; through repetition, it normalizes gender as binary.

05

An attempt to explore queer through visual art is self-contradictory as it explains queer fluidity through the materiality of artwork that is fixed and static.

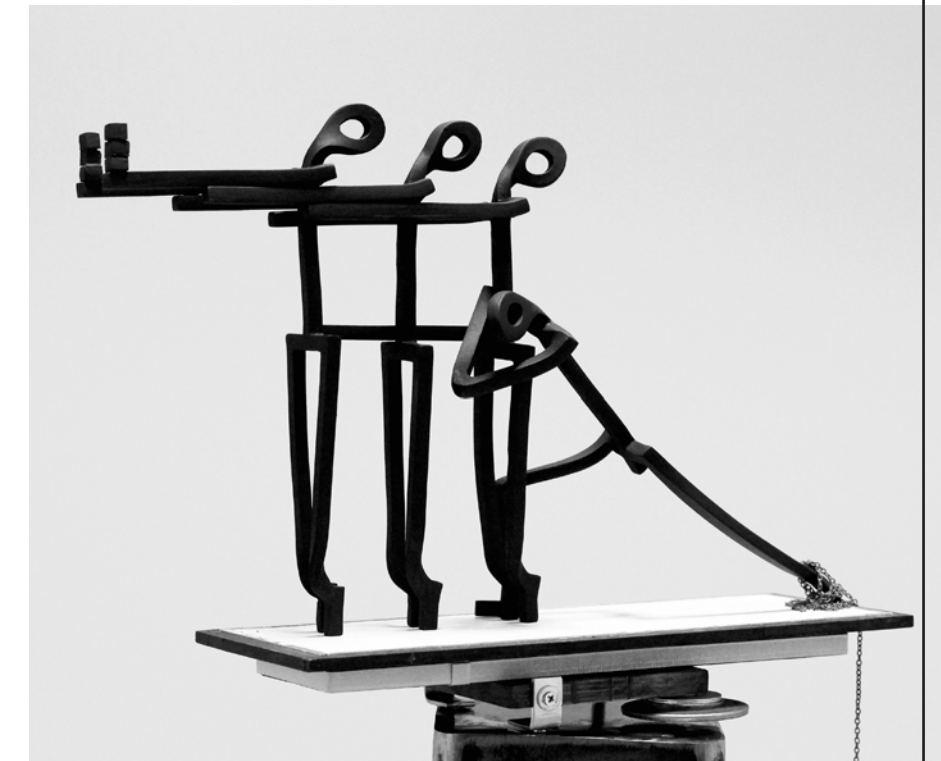


A Strict Devotion to an Ambiguous Task, 39" x 18" x 8", shoe form, caster, wood, books, steel, wallpaper, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2021



A Performative Surprise, 60.5" x 10" x 3", railroad jack, steel, wallpaper, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2021

07



Unmarked, 58" x 13" x 4.25", steel, wallpaper, leather, cast plastic, acrylic sheet, copper paper, liver of sulfur, hardware, magnets, 2020

#### ONLINE REFERENCES

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What is the extent to which the body is defined through the mark of gender?

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