

MICHAEL GRASSO

Michael Grasso
BFA in Sculpture

Pennsylvania State
University

Artistgraso@gmail.com
thegrassoinitiative.weebly.com

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University
Baccalaureate of Fine Arts Degree
State College, Pennsylvania, United States

ARTIST STATEMENT +

Through the platform of drag, I am interested in exploring the rights, experience, and social role of a person who is gender nonconforming. As a gay person, I find the limitations of gender performance and self expression to be wildly troubling. I am devoted to understanding what impacts my relationship to the interplay between masculinity and femininity can have on other people's lives, as well as my own. I am not Transgender, and I am not a woman. I am a biological man who enjoys the power and beauty of using the tools of drag to explore a truer version of myself. I think that accessories of femininity play as vital a role to the exploration toward a more self actualized identity, as masculinity does.

To me, to Jazzmint, drag is about so much more than female impersonation. It is about so much more than spectacle. To understand the beauty of drag as lifestyle, one must explore as many of its crevices as possible. Through the construction and collection of augmenting prosthesis which can be worn on the body, performance can become lifestyle. That is my goal, and in doing so I aim to hone in on the skills and forms of expression which bring me closer to the Jazzmint I feel most confident as.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Pincus Family Foundation Intern at the Palmer Museum of Art

Assistant to the Curator of Education, Summer 2016

Founding Member of the Humpday Gallery

curator/co-curator and reception coordinator for several exhibitions Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Penn State, School of Visual Arts, Sculpture Club Vice President

Event coordinator, applied for university funding, recruiter, organized weekly meetings
Spring 2016-Fall 2016

Display Coordinator and Sales Representative

part time at an upscale boutique, Summer 2015-Spring 2016

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Kara D. Berggren Award Recipient

Undergraduate Juried Exhibition 2016 Scholarship Award

SKILLS

Retail Experience

Public Speaking

Sewing/Patterning

Knowledge of Kiln operation/Clay mixing