

Objects and Others: Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality

Schneider Hall Galleries
University of Louisville, Belknap Campus

June 22 - July 28, 2017
Closing Reception July 27, 5-7pm

University of Louisville MA/MPA degree candidate Jessica Oberdick presents her master's thesis exhibition *Objects and Others: Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality*. Featuring the work of Ashley Renee Hoffman, Carrie Marie Burr and Tessa Gartin, *Objects and Others: Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality* examines the way contemporary culture and the media represent and objectify female bodies, and perpetuate traditional binary gender systems and heteronormativity. This exhibition looks to the ability of the artist to confront these norms, and through visual art and spoken word, challenge these cultural standards and provides a framework for discussion and change.

Evolving from an interest in the text "Trickster Makes this World" by Lewis Hyde, *Objects and Others* grew from a desire to represent the way artists can act as trickster characters, who confront unfair social norms and policies through the creation of art that acts as disseminators of new information, and encourages alternative ways of thinking and feeling. In this way *Objects and Others* provides audiences with a unique framework for discussion and social change. "What began as an exhibition meant to focus on the empowerment of women, has had to shift course based on our current climate in the US, and seeks now to give a voice to those being continuously marginalized and silenced." says Oberdick Together, the work of the artists in this exhibition confronts the stereotypes that attempt to define them, the marginalization of their personhood, the objectification of their bodies, and offers alternative ways of seeing and understanding.