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Seeing and Reading

The politics of representation are increasingly important to me and, with the advent and growth of technologies, I have been creating portfolios of imagery based on and growing out of the body and a relationship to community. In this project I continue to use fingerprints to reference the body, utilizing a personal mark as well as lend a universal reading. Utilizing different processes and applying those processes in layers, I map a path exploring identity and its relationship to community. My concern continues to be community. I am investigating the pride of my and our identities. I take on the challenge to explore how we can have these identities and co-exist in a community. The work becomes a meditation on my identity in the context of the larger world.

“When Whitman wrote about the “thruster who holds me tight and who I hold tight” he was referring not just to a lover but to ‘adhesiveness,’ his word for brotherhood founded in desire... Wherever people live out Whitman’s observation about the greatest lesson to be drawn from nature: ‘variety and freedom.’ This lesson is the essence of queer humanism, and it’s remains the ethos of the queer community.”¹

While visually pushing myself further and continuing to explore my issues as a gay man, I remain inclusive. I am not interested in a separatist position and this is a stance I want my work to reflect. Text is used to underscore some of my concerns, the written language is screened to the back so the image is read through the text.

In my work there is often a density of elements that create my prints. This lends itself to a multiplicity of meanings, challenging and playing with how we see. The juxtaposition of elements from media supports a more critical interpretation of representation. I layer elements – some of these elements are my own images/photographs while others are appropriated; I also adjust the opacity of the different elements. Often, parts of an image morph into another. Masking is utilized to both reveal and hide.

Identity politics continues to define and elaborate on the diversity of our population. I find this diversity a point of celebration and one of inclusion. It adds to the articulation of who we are. My work explores these concerns and of masculinity, sexuality. I am engaged in creating work that addresses today’s sensibility.

“Ours is subject-subject consciousness ... the pursuit of sameness, while the hetro model is subject-object, the requirement of difference.”²

I am very interested in placing my prints in exhibitions, and collections, I am actively pursuing these opportunities. Thank You for this opportunity to share my work with you.

¹ Vaid, Urvashi, *Virtual Equality*, Anchor Books, 1995, p. 379

² Goldstein, Richard, *The Attack Queers*, Verso, 2002, p. 93

