

LARRY WEYAND



Every Bathroom I Have Bathed In

1995 - 2020

Mary E. Black Gallery

Artist Statement

This installation investigates how challenging narratives such as gender dysphoria and body dysmorphia can occupy space within the soft, fluffy boundaries of wool-based craft.

Greatly inspired by Tracey Emin's iconic installation "Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995", I created a series of "Every Bathroom I Have Ever Bathed In 1995-2020", starting with the first two life-sized bathrooms I have taken baths in. Each item within them sculpturally constructed using the time consuming, traditional rug hooking methods as a foundation for technical exploration.

I explore ideas of the bathroom as a private/public space, a space of self-surveillance, of tension, of discomfort, of sickness, of health, of beautification, of built-up grime, of disgust, of confusion. As a person still grappling with my gender-neutrality, I experience constant anxieties around the use of washrooms, both public and private. I question the physicality of my own body by revisiting intergenerational traumas experienced in these domestic spaces. I have showered in many spaces, but there have been very few bathrooms where I have felt comfortable enough to take a bath in. I can count only six. I intended on revealing my vulnerability through the construction of these washrooms.

My work addresses moments of stress, anxiety, panic, abuse, disagreement, anger, addiction, sadness, body dysmorphia and loss. My curiosity develops in the space where narrative, psychological resilience, mat making and domestic spaces intersect. My bright, colorful, humorous and chunky mats softly and safely start conversations about mental health, gender dysphoria, trauma and the act of making as a coping mechanism. I pull each strand of yarn through meters upon meters of burlap, questioning how repetition in cloth can break negative behavioral patterns. I carry my emotional baggage through this craft of resilience, each completed rug becoming an externalized record of compassion, understanding and self-acceptance.



5295 Cumberland, MTL, QC (detail)
(2021-22)
Yarn, monks cloth, wood, foam, monokote
Image Credit: Amanda Penney

Image at top of page:
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Bio

Larry Weyand is a rug hooker whose work defies the established properties of traditional floor decor, domesticity and gender. Fueled by the complex history of processed foods, emotional trauma, autoethnography, queerness, and domestic spaces, Larry investigates how hard-to-swallow narratives can exist within the dis/comfort of textile-based craft.

Larry's textile work has been presented across Canada, most recently at The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery (St. John's, NL, 2019-2020), Neutral Ground Artist Run Center (Saskatoon, SK, 2020-2021), the Art Gallery of Burlington (Burlington, ON, 2021), and Struts & Faucet Artist Run Center (Sackville, NB, 2019). Larry has recently been the recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts Grant as well as the City of St. John's Artist Grant to develop a pivotal body of work about bathrooms, to unpack their experience as a gender non-conforming person. Having completed their MFA at Concordia University in Fibres & Material Practices, Larry is now a Visiting Assistant Professor in Textile Arts at Memorial University's Grenfell campus in Newfoundland & Labrador.



Larry Weyand Portriate
Image Credit:



5295 Cumberland, MTL, QC (detail)
(2021-22)
Yarn, monks cloth, wood, foam, monokote
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11 Burnie Way, ME (detail)
(2021-22)
Yarn, monks cloth, wood, foam, monokote
Image Credit: Amanda Penney



5295 Cumberland, MTL, QC (detail)
(2021-22)
Yarn, monks cloth, wood, foam, monokote
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