

Artist Statement
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The physical body is a fundamental site for the public manifestation of meaning. My attraction to performance is rooted in this basic premise: that the vicarious experience of another's body can be a gateway to the kind of transcendent experience that I believe art should ultimately seek to provide, a liminal space for thought and critique, a ballooning of questions that can expand one's view, one's consciousness.

My performance/video work explores the cultural trappings of belief, specifically in rituals occurring at the convergence of Catholicism, Mexican folk practice (curanderismo), and Latin identity. My roots in Texas border culture provide specific visual cues that emerge in questions about the place of the body in faith and culture, and notions of physical and spiritual authenticity, all with a feminist subtext. The universal power of the body as cultural marker and the constraints that come with it are concepts I seek to highlight and challenge. Of particular interest are notions of cleansing in the spiritual and physical sense, achieved through avenues such as curanderismo, confession, or ascetic acts.

I approach these themes through live performance, video, and works on paper. I work back and forth between the still and moving image to explore the pacing unique to each – providing a moment to linger at one's wish versus deliberately directing the viewer through time. The videos and performances focus on one particular action, functioning more like moving two-dimensional images. This distillation of action is meant to encourage the audience to slow down and experience a movement through mental space, rather than a three-dimensional or more self-consciously cinematic space. Producing and exhibiting these media simultaneously allows me to use personal and religious iconography as literal text while engaging the viewer in real-time experience.

Catholic imagery appears so often in the work because of its personal familiarity and fascinating material culture. The obsession with how belief manifests in the bodies of the faithful, from the vicarious experience of Christ's wounds as stigmatic affliction to reliquaries and saints in glass coffins, captivates me as a practitioner of body art. My body, too, is a carrier of meaning, albeit in a different context. I challenge corporeal entrapment by performing it.