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Statement: Video Works

In contrast to the un-nuanced versions of men we see in popular culture, my videos reveal obsession, confusion, insecurity, narcissism and perversity. I work by selecting one of my own private social dysfunctions or a troubling autobiographical anecdote and exaggerate or multiply it. I then present it as a topic of contemplation that addresses universal feelings of vulnerability.

I create a character that looks like an average white American male, but is unabashedly candid about sharing his thoughts. I embrace some of the tropes of television in order to critique it. For instance, I play on the audience's familiarity with sitcom humor by appealing to them initially. But by nature of my persistent, exaggerated and multiplied dysfunction, by the end of the video the viewer is left feeling out of the range of his/her PG-13 comfort zone.

Because my work is based in autobiography, the tone of my videos fluctuates in tandem with the events of my life. Much of my work employs humor as a means of making uncomfortable topics more approachable. Some works use heightened moments of grief, guilt or tenderness to illustrate milestones or epiphanies. The result is a fuller vision of masculinity that is more in keeping with the complex array of male motivations.

Statement: Video Sculptures

My video sculptures use an unreliable televised talking head as a metaphor for the burdens of inner dialog, self-criticism and male insecurity. For the videos, I create and perform a character that looks like someone on TV: a newscaster, politician, or self-help guru. At first he is earnest, has good information to share and maintains the appearance that an intimate exchange will take place. There is humor in his naiveté and candidness, but his continual contradictions and unregulated opinions leave the viewer feeling confused and alienated. We are duped by the talking head who represents both what we see regularly on television, and what we hear regularly as a running advice column in our heads.

The sculptural elements consist of objects that have decidedly masculine associations: athletic equipment, safety equipment, outdated audio/video components and impractical tools. I combine these pieces into home-made machines which are then used to support, lift or carry the physically and metaphorically burdensome talking heads appearing on the television screens. The final construction implies usefulness and invites the viewer to imagine their self as the bearer of the burden.