

TaraDePorteArtist'sStatement

A canvas invokes visions of works to come--junk-piles become treasure troves, magazines become images of lovers. When I am creating art, I enter another realm—a place of introspection, lust, and intensity. Creating is an outlet for fears, angers, philosophies, and a direct expression of self and constant questioning.

Pulling simultaneously from the narrative to the abstract, I work in mixed media—from found objects to oil paints, plaster gauze to human hair. Using a combination of vibrant colors, disjointed brushstrokes, strong lines and drawing, works combine to overrun the canvas—a metaphorical struggle to pull away from foundations.

Often interpreted as discomfoting, yet intriguing, much of my work deals with womanhood, sexuality and personal identity. I explore myself as an object of desire/non-desire, as a self-perceived schizophrenic, and as a complexity trap. My images provoke movement to and from places, roles, and expectations, as I use the metamorphosis of the body to exhibit constraints on mobility.

Expanding beyond the canvas, I have been exploring the involvement of the audience in performance, installation and public art. These pieces challenge the viewer to enter into a temporary world, often filled with the contrasts of metaphorical pleasure and pain.

As my work develops, I have noticed seesawing signs of aging: my own increasing comfort with my body and the persisting harshness of self-image. Many works create a cocoon-like feeling, imposing simultaneously comfort and discomfort in images—simultaneous vulnerability and strength. Through the weaving of diverse storylines, current work is challenging me to break internal boundaries between two of my lives: sustainable development, women's leadership and the environment, and the creative visual/visceral experience.