



NANCY ROY-MEYER

On a hand-stitched canvas, I imagine a world where the abundance of flesh is celebrated as alternative to the deprivation, restriction and regulation of a lean existence. My super-sized self-portraits full of generous glitter, rhinestones and delicious colors, depict an aging, obese woman whose voice is often marginalized and placed on the fringe of society. From the experience of being both invisible and hyper-visible under the critical gaze of others, I question, “what is beauty and who and what is grotesque”? I interrogate socio-cultural body hierarchies that involve fat shaming attitudes within a weight-phobic America.

I use self-deprecating humor as psychological defense and carnivalesque satire to unsettle the viewers’ normative patterns of perception towards corpulence. I juxtapose my likeness with painted portraits from art history to situate my work within a tradition of female representation and to probe ideological positions of ideal body weight. I appropriate images from popular culture to re-contextualize the female portrait from a fat woman’s perspective. Through a collage of photographs and painted characters, I tell a story of an idealized life, where fleshy bodies thrive.