



S U R
F A C
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Why should we limit ourselves to fit within a rigid binary, when our minds and bodies are so multifaceted and ever changing?

I imagine the biological spectrum as an infinity of possibilities, not situated along a linear axis, but muddled together in a huge grid.

The mind is malleable, able to construct and restrict even without conscious thought. I believe gender is constructed, that reality is fluid and in constant motion rather than stuck in the same place.

Throughout most of my life, my identity has been constructed around my body. I have gotten to know myself through an understanding of what it means to be 'a woman'.

This has defined several aspects of my life, implicitly telling me who I should love, how I should move around in the world, what I should look like and how I am expected to act.

I have felt suffocated by my own biology, stuck in a predestined pattern, drowning in expectations. Studying my face, I look for narratives that differ from the one I have followed my whole life.

I began [...] to reverse the process of the way I had been constructed as a woman by deconstructing myself visually in an attempt to identify the process by which I had been 'put together'

- Jo Spence, *Putting myself in the picture*

Taking my own body apart, I reflect on how I have valued the appearance of the surface rather than its function.

Viewing my skin through the electron microscope shows me the microscopic layers that exist as parts of us all; layer upon layer of material, together it creates surfaces that seem to hold us together.

Making a cast of my back, I wonder if the hard and unforgiving material will immortalize the movement of my muscles. What is lost when movement ceases?

Magnifying the imprint my skin made in the cast, I examine the details of the surface. These pores could belong to someone else. These surfaces are mine, but they cannot tell you who I am.

I wonder how to move away from the stickiness. Will we ever surface somewhere beyond the binary?

Mari Bø (b. 1989 Tromsø, Norway) is an interdisciplinary artist working with textures and movements connected to the body. She is specifically interested in exploring nuances and facets existing within her own body, using her art as a tool to understand and challenge herself. Mari holds a B.A. in Contemporary Dance from The Norwegian College of Dance in Oslo and has studied "Gender and Equality" at the Arctic University of Norway. She has been working freelance as a dancer and choreographer, touring her work in Norway, Lithuania and Russia.

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KUBBURINN

Laugarnesvegur 91, 105 Reykjavík

Opening Friday 28th of February: 17.⁰⁰ - 19.⁰⁰

Opening hours

Saturday 29th of February: 12.⁰⁰ - 16.⁰⁰

Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th of March: 13.⁰⁰ - 17.⁰⁰

This exhibition is part of a series of MA solo exhibitions by graduating students at the fine art department of the Iceland University of the Arts in the spring of 2020.