

***Aesthetic Discomfort*** (2025), model magic, spray paint, acrylic paint, basswood, high gloss sealant, each work 7"x5". Collection of the Artist.





*Aesthetic Discomfort* is a 12-part installation of black-and-white, tentacle-like forms mounted on vibrant, colored wooden ovals. These pieces explore the tension that arises when identity challenges societal expectations. They reflect the many facets of my experience—queer, neurodivergent, disabled, Indigenous, and gender-expansive—and the ways these aspects of self can unsettle normative perceptions.

Rather than seeking to make that tension comfortable or easily digestible, the work asks viewers to sit with the discomfort, to encounter the complexity and resilience inherent in these intersecting identities. The contrast between the stark forms and the bright backgrounds mirrors the interplay between vulnerability and strength, uncertainty and joy.

Through *Aesthetic Discomfort*, I aim to create a space where the unsettling becomes generative: a place to witness, reflect, and find beauty and empowerment in the parts of ourselves that society often deems difficult or invisible.