

Orion Gizzi

2022 Spring

Capstone - Painting

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

For this series of artwork, I focused on how gender dysphoria affects me in my life. I am a transgender individual and gender dysphoria something I experience on an almost day to day basis; this causes me to have a lot of mixed emotions about how I feel about and in my own body such as insecurity, frustration, dissatisfaction, and embarrassment. I wanted to explore the ways in which how I feel about typically gendered situations has changed the further along in my transition I get; focusing mainly on prom and weddings. These situations are seen to have a more feminine connotation to them and are events in which clothing takes on a more gendered structure. Imagery such as dresses, flowers, cake decorations, and the color pink tend to also be seen as more feminine, which is why I have included those in my artwork.

I also took inspiration from contemporary artists who incorporate cake piping tools to create textured paint that protrudes from the canvases. I used the cake piping technique in my own art to create the 3D floral decorations in Self Portrait and Prom Dress. Events like my prom and my future self's wedding – a day that I used to dream of being a princess on – now no longer feel so special. There's new feelings of discomfort and uncertainty about them now because wearing a dress and being viewed as a girl causes me gender dysphoria. My goal was to use very muddied and harsh colors on the wedding dress to display the feelings of discomfort and bitterness towards the conflict of no longer getting the chance to be the bride I dreamed of being as a kid, but also no longer wanting it.

Since this project focuses mainly on internal feelings about my body, I felt that it was important to also be able to put the artwork on my body and wear it around. Painting on dresses allowed me to express these feelings in a true-to-life size. In addition, I wanted the painting of the bridal portrait to feel almost daunting and larger than life with how big it is. I wanted this to emulate the overbearing feeling of gender dysphoria.

Title	Original Format
Figure 1: Self Portrait	Oil paint, cold wax medium, and impasto medium on canvas, 24"x30", 2021
Figure 2: Self Portrait – Detail	Oil paint, cold wax medium, and impasto medium on canvas, 24"x30", 2021
Figure 3: Self Portrait – Detail	Oil paint, cold wax medium, and impasto medium on canvas, 24"x30", 2021
Figure 4: Bridal Portrait	Oil paint and cold wax medium on canvas, 9'x3', 2021
Figure 5: Bridal Portrait – Detail	Oil paint and cold wax medium on canvas, 9'x3', 2021
Figure 6: Bridal Portrait – Detail	Oil paint and cold wax medium on canvas, 9'x3', 2021
Figure 7: Wedding Dress – Front	Oil paint, impasto, cold wax medium and fabric stiffener on silk wedding dress, 2021
Figure 8: Wedding Dress – Back	Oil paint, impasto, cold wax medium and fabric stiffener on silk wedding dress, 2021
Figure 9: Wedding Dress – Detail	Oil paint, impasto, cold wax medium and fabric stiffener on silk wedding dress, 2021
Figure 10: Wedding Dress – Detail	Oil paint, impasto, cold wax medium and fabric stiffener on silk wedding dress, 2021
Figure 11: Prom Dress	Oil paint and cold wax medium on satin dress, 2021
Figure 12: Prom Dress – Detail	Oil paint and cold wax medium on satin dress, 2021
Figure 13: Prom Dress – Detail	Oil paint and cold wax medium on satin dress, 2021
Figure 14: Gender Dysphoria	Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on plastic mannequin and bra, 2022
Figure 15: Gender Dysphoria – Detail	Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on plastic mannequin and bra, 2022

- Figure 16: Gender Dysphoria – Detail Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on plastic mannequin and bra, 2022
- Figure 17: Prom Night Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on canvas, 8'x4', 2022
- Figure 18: Prom Night – Detail Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on canvas, 8'x4', 2022
- Figure 19: Prom Night – Detail Oil paint, acrylic paint, impasto and cold wax medium on canvas, 8'x4', 2022



Figure 1: Self Portrait



Figure 2: Self Portrait – Detail



Figure 3: Self Portrait – Detail



Figure 4: Bridal Portrait



Figure 5: Bridal Portrait – Detail



Figure 6: Bridal Portrait – Detail



Figure 7: Wedding Dress – Front



Figure 8: Wedding Dress – Back

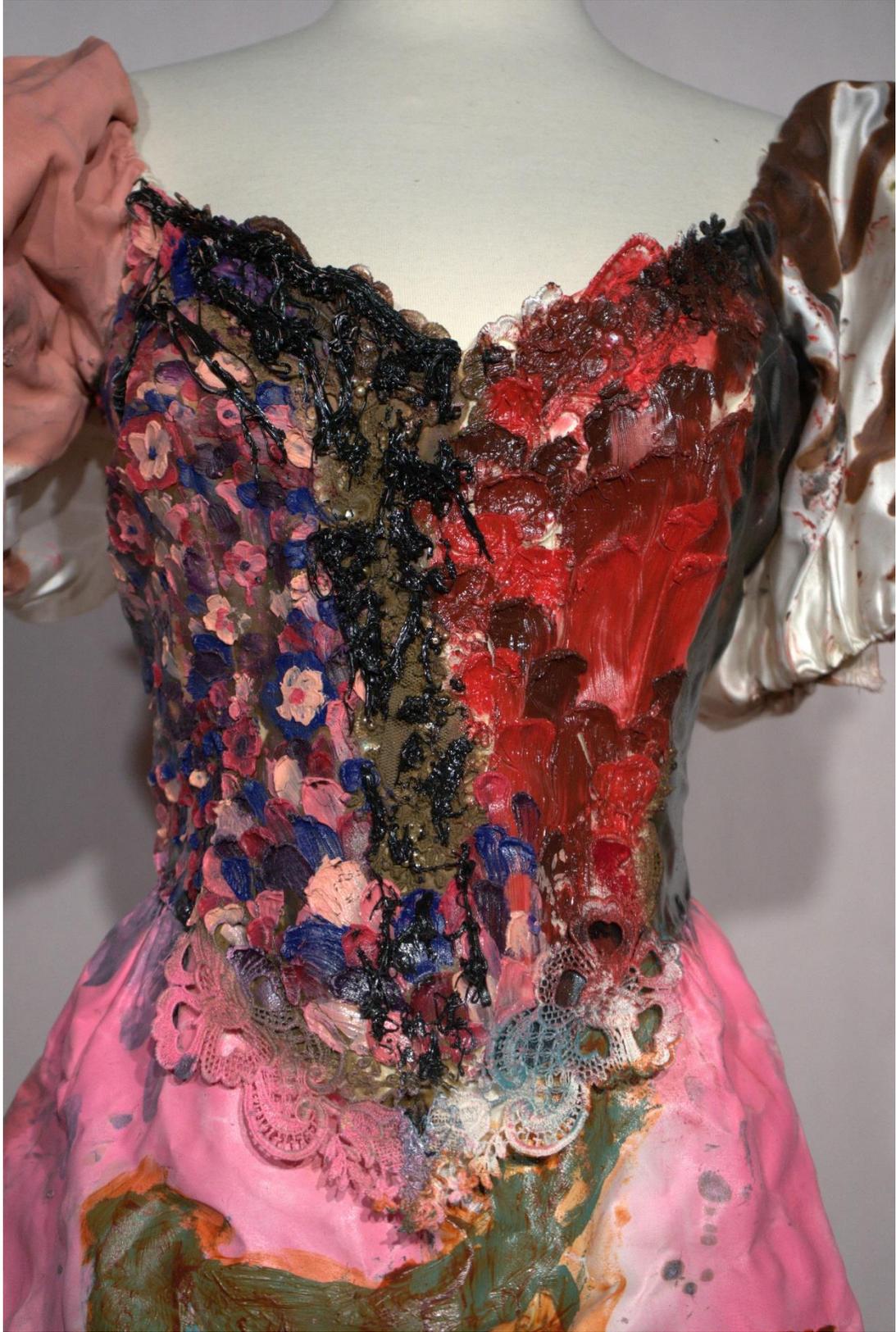


Figure 9: Wedding Dress – Detail



Figure 10: Wedding Dress – Detail

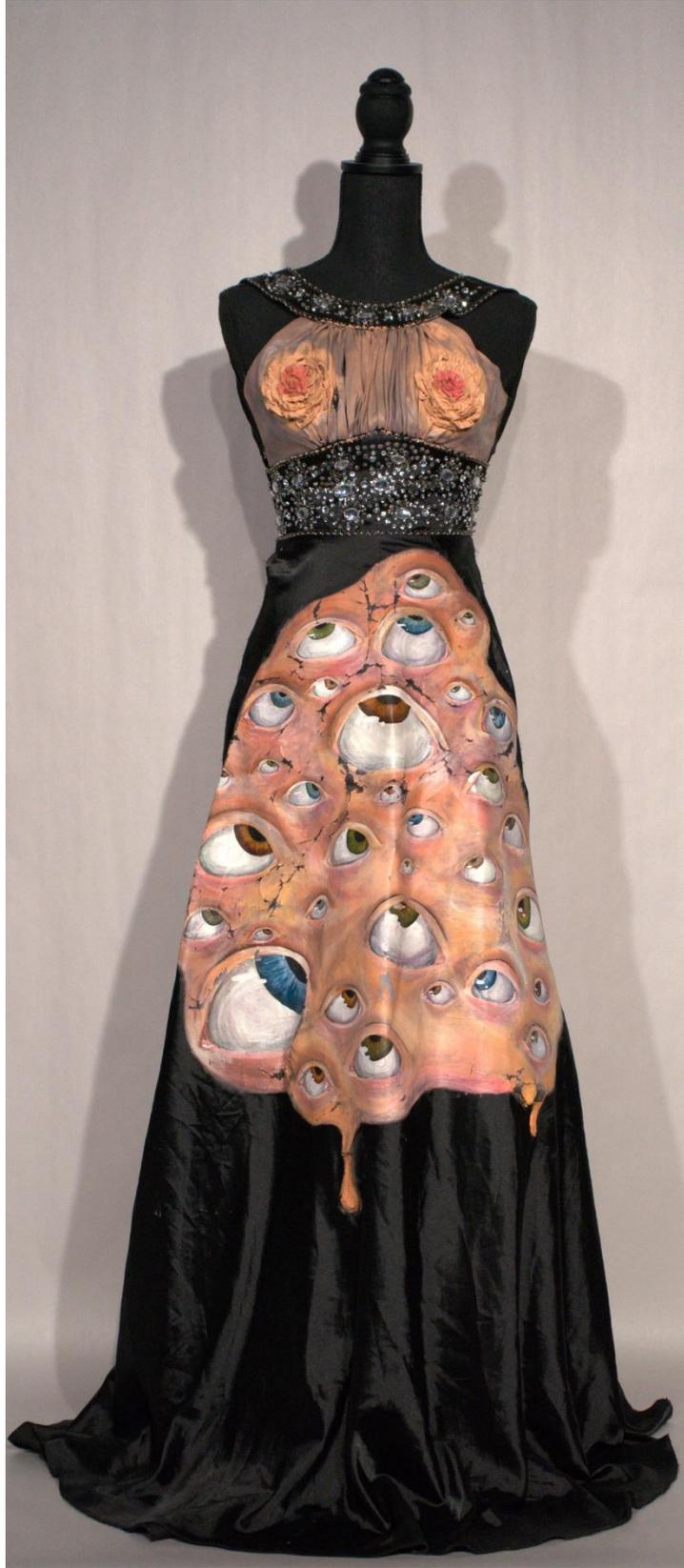


Figure 11: Prom Dress



Figure 12: Prom Dress – Detail



Figure 13: Prom Dress – Detail



Figure 14: Gender Dysphoria



Figure 15: Gender Dysphoria – Detail



Figure 16: Gender Dysphoria – Detail



Figure 17: Prom Night



Figure 18: Prom Night – Detail

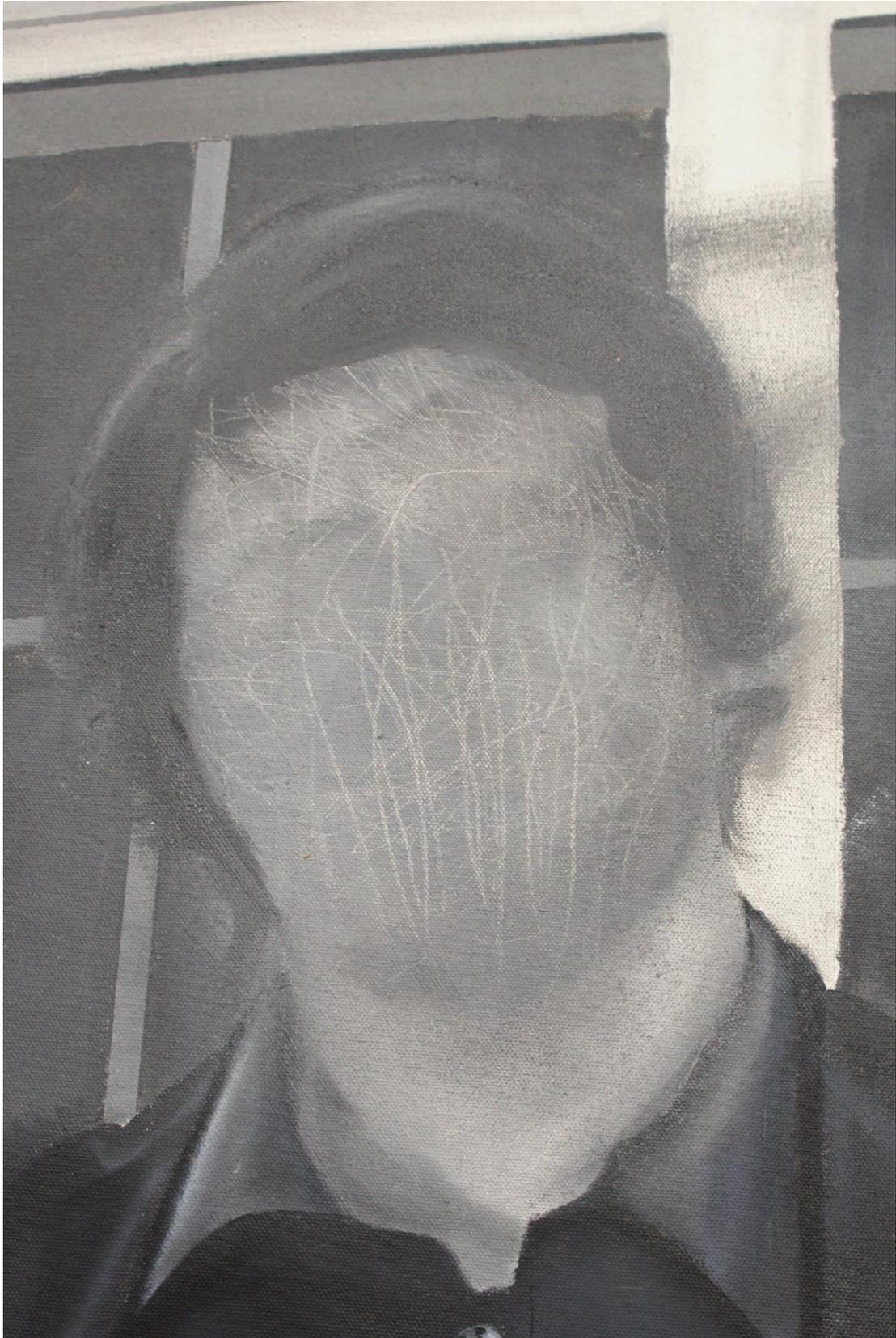


Figure 19: Prom Night – Detail