

Artist Statement: Cal Demitrios Groudas

My work emerges from a shifting relationship to my body—one shaped by chronic pain (from endometriosis, herniated discs, and top surgery recovery), OCD, and medical transition. Across mediums—photography, drawing, painting, soft sculpture, and installation—I explore the grotesque beauty of flesh, fetish, and transformation. I work intimately with textures and materials: stitched skin-like surfaces, magnified details, bodily forms rendered surreal. Macrophotography captures wounds, hair, and scars with a loving, obsessive eye. I often assemble found and handmade objects into tactile altars of perversion, play, and queer pleasure. My work leans into body horror, filth, and glamour; it's both celebratory and naughty—draggy, campy, sexy, and weird. I seek to reframe what is “too much”—too messy, too horny, too anxious—as a place of magic. My process is slow and sensory, guided by compulsions and repetition, finding elegance in the things we're taught to hide: scabs, fluids, soft flesh, fear, desire. I explore kink, drugs, gender, and queerness through a lens of tasteful faggotry and sex-positive defiance. The resulting works are visceral, titillating, and a little bit filthy—subversive portals into queer embodiment and the joy of being a disgusting little freak.