

Joie Rey Cohen – Artist Statement

Joie's work is empowerment of a queer, working-class experience, where industrial meets natural, gender lines are blurred, and surreal is taken to a new place. It is an awakening where subconscious and conscious collide within a journey of overlapping textures, colors, and symbols.

The many layers of identity are figuratively and literally represented on the two dimensional photographic plane, through high contrast techniques, disguises, digital collage, and masks, which create surreal and often genderless imagery. This photographic process is a dimensional building collaboration between subject and photographer.

This photography is demonstrative of the infinite energetic connections between photographer and subject, and the goal is to bring forth the individuality from those people and places being photographed.

It is an elaboration of the impossibility of creating work that completely excludes the personal experiences and personality traits of the artist and subject alike.