

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hi my name is now Bustamonte, and I'm a 2021 C.O.L.A Visual Arts Fellow. My family was a creative family we played musical instruments. My mom was very creative I always like to say she was the first installation artist I knew. Because she would do all kinds of things with decorations and family photos and that kind of thing.

So I come from a creative family but I never really saw myself as an artist. Until I left high school. And I started in Fresno State as agriculture economics major with a minor in pre-law. And I was really bored out of my mind so I started taking these postmodern dance classes like Cunningham technique and Ballet.

And I went to San Francisco just to do a two week workshop. And I ended up just moving there. This was mid 80s and I just ended up moving there letting everyone know I was dropping out of school I got a job, at this place called the New Performance Gallery as the receptionist.

And there was a Performance Series that was very well known then it was called the American enrobed series. And all of the national and sometimes international performance artists came through and so I had a really great access to them and an education around performance art and dance and poetry.

I was still on the East Coast I went in for a gynecological exam. And I remember thinking at the time when the speculum was inside of me God I think they would be able to make a better speculum. And you know that old saying where people feel like they can put a man on the moon you know.

I really felt that way like they could put a man on the moon and they can't make a comfortable speculum. Literally like this idea of the spaceship going through space and the cosmos and the aerodynamic qualities of all of these contraptions. But then having this object, which is called the duckbill speculum. And is based on an early version by a person who had terrible practices with women.

It just seemed like it was really out of touch, with the medical advances. And so on the way home I remember design really popped into my head immediately. And I started thinking about this idea that's I call it bloom, because I think of it more as a flower like petals opening, or the idea you know of a hand something that would be more organic and could spread out the pressure as it opens. And still give the medical access needed.

I've been working with a really excellent visual artist named Jessica Taylor Bellamy. Who's been helping me with the drawings because of course I'm a terrible drawer. Most of my work has been in the realm of video and performance and installation. And so it's been a really amazing process.

I would like to learn how to draw sun but my main desire is to get a good drawing of what's in my head out on paper so that I can begin the process of prototyping. It seems even silly that as an artist that I would be moving into this area but part of me thinks that I don't know it's like a form of activism. I guess in a way as an artist just to see a need. And I want to work there. And some of my work.

My work I guess has a long history of thinking through issues around women's bodies. And sometimes that's making the body vulnerable. Sometimes it's about protecting the body. And now I am entering the body.

I guess I would like people to take away this idea. That they can try things that they're. Maybe it's not like their expertise, but they could strive to make things better and their lives and the lives of other people. And also I'd like to make it less taboo to talk about things like gynecological exams. Because it's so necessary to save women's lives.

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