

While using photography as a means of self-expression, I am fascinated by individual development in society and how certain external pressures can impact one's mental stigma.

What is "beauty" and what truly defines something as "ugly"? Who even set the standard to determine if something is ugly or beautiful? Through these works, I am passionate about illustrating the idea of false or manufactured identities to physically portray the inner feelings people may struggle with in terms of masking who they truly are to come to terms with society's expectations. I visually incorporate aspects of how society views people versus how people view themselves to show the insecurities and vulnerabilities faced by individuals every day.

Some of my works include portraits as the base image while further being manipulated by external overlays, including faces of dolls. In some of the other images, I also include the idea of a masked or hidden identity that shadows the original portrait. A viewer may look at one of these manipulated images and automatically think, "that face looks ugly". I attempt to complicate the traditional notions of beauty, while proving that all photos have a specific beauty to them, just like all individuals.

In some of my images, I used the concept of the uncanny valley, which is the hypothesized relationship between an appearance and its resemblance to a human being. In other words, some of these human faces almost, but not exactly, elicit aspects of real human beings, resulting in strangely familiar and uncertain feelings for the observers. Holistically, my goal is to inspire those to discover beauty in unusual places, while looking more carefully at the world around them.