

The Art of Disability Culture

Artists with Disabilities Dispelling Myths, Dissolving Barriers and Disrupting Prejudice

The Art of Disability Culture is an invitation to engage with the work of artists with disabilities and expand our understanding of the disability community. At the heart of the exhibition is a celebration of the diverse, personal, and infinitely varied “disability experience”. Each of the 12 artists has one or more disabilities, whether visible or invisible, and the exhibition centers upon their creativity, vulnerability, and unique perspectives.

One in four people have a disability or will acquire one through age, and although we have the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other legal protections, discrimination, prejudice, and exclusion persist. Indeed, many disabled artists have become activists as a response to an often hostile or inaccessible world. The Bay Area is a fertile home to many organizations and activists who continue to forward disability rights and disability justice and disabled artists are an integral part of this strong and expanding ecosystem. The exhibition includes work from artists who worked to create greater access through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as well as work by the younger generation who claim their place in the world as a civil right without apology.

The exhibition aims to create a safe space of reflection and contemplation, one in which it is fine to stare and experience the humanity of others. We invite you to spend time with the artwork and leave with a new perspective and insight into the local disability community and the power of disability culture to make our society stronger and more resilient.

The Future is Inclusive and Accessible

QR codes on the wall labels will take you to audio descriptions of the artwork. A comprehensive Braille guide with labels and audio description texts is available for Deaf/Blind and visually impaired visitors. Exhibition materials are also available in large print. All related events have American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, live captioning, and online components.

Fran Osborne
Guest Curator

Acknowledgments

The Art of Disability Culture is a continuation of one hosted by the Palo Alto Art Center in Fall 2021 and aims to keep the conversation going. Grateful thanks to all the artists, private lenders, Walter Maciel Gallery in Los Angeles, Creative Growth, NIAD Art Center, and Creativity Explored, Bethany Center Foundation, and Covia/FrontPorch Foundation for making this exhibition possible.

