

DESIRÉE HOLMAN

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Biographical Narrative

Desirée Holman is an artist based in Oakland, California. Her multi-sensory work positions groups of individuals and theatrical tools, like costumes or props, in settings that illuminate ideas of identity. The work attempts to occupy British anthropologist Victor Turner's notion of liminality, a transitional state of ritual wherein participants fully engaged in performance inhabit a series of new, hybrid identities. In this space, the artist's work reveals a complex dialogue about truth and the experience of the 'real' world and is underpinned by a creative investigation into social equality through the use of character play.

Holman holds a Masters degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Earning critical acclaim for her work, Holman was awarded a San Francisco Modern Museum of Art SECA award in 2008 and in 2007 the Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue award. From 2016-2017, she will be returning to SFMOMA as a fellow in the Film & Performance Department with a new works commission. Solo exhibitions of her work include the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (2009), Montreal's SKOL (2016), Denver's Black Cube Nomadic Museum (2015), and the Berkeley Art Museum's MATRIX program (2011). International exhibitions of Holman's work include the Sao Paulo Museum of Modern Art, Berlin's Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Milan's BnD, Montreal's SKOL and Toronto's YYZ. Reviews of Holman's work appeared in numerous publications including Artforum, Los Angeles Times, NY Arts, Artillery, San Francisco Chronicle and Artweek. Her work is represented by CULT Aimee Friberg Exhibitions in San Francisco and Aspect/Ratio in Chicago.