

Artist Bio

Nicholas Aiden is an award winning queer artist from St. John's, NL and holds a Bachelor's of Fine Art in Photography from OCAD University. Their work has been shown in Canadian galleries such as Artscape Youngplace, Northern Contemporary, Trinity Square Video and Eastern Edge. Internationally, Aiden has exhibited in New York at the Superchief Gallery. Aiden's work has been featured in the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival, auctioned as a winner of the SNAP juried photography competition benefiting Aids Committee of Toronto, as well as featured in publications produced by The Madeline Co. and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Artist Statement

Aiden's practice is a relentless questioning of identity and subjective navigations of the sociality of the 'self.' They are committed to investigating and challenging the notions of selfhood, primarily through the lens of gender and sexuality. Their personal interactions and lived experiences meet with the heteronormative presuppositions of both 'manhood' and 'gay manhood' in a push to affirm the fluid moods of being. The current state of the gay male as a marginalized group, and the stratification of such a group into a set of subcultures is a driving force in their commitment to interrogate the social processes that initialize and sustain 'othering.' Furthermore, the digitally engaged facts of gay male sexuality, such as the formation of sexually driven social networks, has become a primary source of research within their work. As a lens-based artist, the digital archive of the self-identified gay male body in its inherent tie to images--as tool of the mitigation between appearance and identity, has prompted their excavation of the hetero-masculinist narratives within gay communities. Throughout Aiden's practice the familiarity of dress, gesture, pose and objects are exploited to critique and stilt the heteronormative clutches on the homosexual community.