

Chanika Svetvilas

Statement

My interdisciplinary practice focuses on the diversity of the lived experience of mental health difference, and the impact of the stigma and inequity of access to care. I utilize an archive of medication guides, prescription bottles, historical and psychiatric resource materials along with found objects that reflect mental health conditions and systemic and historical legacies to find strength in vulnerability.

I play with scale to magnify and make visible the content of the work and reveal the messiness of process and imperfections. This body of work was developed based on my personal experiences as someone who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder as a way to grasp and translate their meaning through the lens of disability justice and mad pride.

I am delighted to participate in the group exhibition, “More than Touch, a Connection,” as a disability justice advocate who is exploring accessibility at the conception and materiality of the work. I wanted to give comfort, care, and connection, through my sculpture.