

## **Blow Out, Flight, Untitled**

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My work emphasizes the futile ritualistic acts that are extracted from everyday circumstances. The rituals are based on simplistic actions exaggerated to extremes. Reconfiguring and presenting the act of popping a balloon or tying a string transforms the trite and everyday into an immense challenge.

Through observation and mimicry, I research the many facets of a desired image. I intend to eventually reach a point at which the inherent inanimate quality of the object ceases and a relationship develops. My goal is to provoke a transformation within both the object and myself, displaying the individual's longing to be both creator and destroyer. The transformation I seek is comparable to the universal strive to emulate an image which the individual cannot possibly become or understand. Our failure to achieve inevitably causes further insecurities. I am intrigued by the commonality of failure; the lack of success has the power to bestow both disappointment and possibilities. The absurdities of my performances reflect the same irrational behavior individuals conduct on a regular basis.

In my work, I find that the battle between the opposing force and myself quickly becomes a clash between three. The mind generates a doubling of my own body or existence; a sense of duality within the self. I prefer to think of my alter ego as a part of me that has already achieved the desired image. A super-heroine, or one with super-human ability, that may defeat both my artificially created opponent and the self.

However, because these fictional characters are fabricated images created by the human mind, they are perhaps as flawed as ourselves. In reality, the skewed persona we desire may be as mentally, physically, sexually and socially inept as each and every one of us.

I often utilize myself in my artwork, because I find that it emphasizes both the narcissistic and submissive qualities of the concept. I intend my work to display the endless humor, absurdity, humiliation and eventually failure of the individual. I allow the viewer to laugh at me, therefore enabling them to find humor in themselves.



Emily Walley (2005)  
Blow out

This video involves popping balloons to a soundtrack of birthday music. The piece ends when a relationship forms between a single white helium balloon and the performer.



Emily Walley (2005)  
Flight

This video is filmed from below the performer and projected onto the gallery ceiling. This creates the illusion of an opening or skylight in the overhead surface.



Emily Walley (2005)  
Untitled

The photographs display separate videos projected opposite one another, on translucent windows of an installation space. The viewer is able to enter between the two projections and become a parrot by mimicking that which already exists.