

Performance Art as an Act of Defiance

Queering Identity Paradigms



Presented to
the Department of English & Communications
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

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Storying identity through visual and narrative explorations

The quest for identity is a performative act

Crisis is a perpetual appendage to this pursuit

Performing Identity, Storying the Self

Interrogating existing paradigms to defy binary structures

Centralizing margins for access to comprehensive life stories

Consolidating memory to better our choices

Her story, his voice



Female voices on the periphery of the Armenian tradition

Crisis rests upon the body's natural propulsions

Defiance is born out of the conflict with cerebral urges

Drives of the Self



The development of the outer world does not ease the struggle within;

Social constructs, outside validation hider introspection

The principal reasons for crisis are attributed to the
loss of the bodily expectations of being female.

The most natural way to express the loss of identity of the
body is through the **physical**.



Experimental Performance Art



mindspace
Exploring Identity Within and Beyond

Performed by Laura Sargsyan
Directed by Arianna Khachatrian

Based on, adapted from, and
inspired by *Womanhouse*, 1972

AUA
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of Armenia



"His" perspective of "herstory" and her view of it drastically differ from each other

Sexual identity, trauma, importance and failure of understanding the drives of the self are main contributing factors leading to crisis

History and Herstory



The consequences of crisis may include:

the loss of the conception of who one is,

disengagement or disinterest in ordinary life or previously established relationships,

inability to make choices that affect the future of the individual

In the resolution of the identity crisis, every factor of the experience

is roughly the same for both women and men, except sex.



Crisis: Influencing Factors

Chair - enclosure

Wrapping - binding

Mirror - self-reflection, introspection

Chains and ropes - enslavement, incapability

Flowers - origins of nature

Frames - self-victimization

Eggs - biology

Blood - violence

Paper and yarn - gossip, social media, conventional accounts

Cement - fetishization

Water - renewal



Symbols of Identity

Performance itself can manifest as having a crisis in its personality

Any form of the performative act has an identity crisis because there is no clear relationship between the performer and the performance.

Avant-garde art & sound cinema



Performance as Form, Medium & Agent

Finding oneself, losing the sense of self, and the inner space of the female experience displayed through dance

What is lost in mind can be acted upon the body

The movements of the muscles, joints, and tissues can represent the disruptions of the self

Modern dance has tried to replicate the processes of the mind by manipulating the performers' bodies



Dance & Identity: The Body as the Identity Itself



The body is a 'language' that can be used to convey any sentence, any emotion with the directness of physicality of the expression.

The language of symbols is universally accessible

English for decolonization, deimperialization, de-subjugation

Communicative Paths Involved

Please consult the capstone research paper and refer to the performance recording for further information.

Part 1

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dj-7Xe6aAJc9hZeklmSLQbc93oCE8nvZ>

Part 2

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ufVxb5ifIDIQ-ANAUlPu4RvkKPYsleX/view>

