JENNIFER BOYD

My work's foundation is built with the psychic, emotional, collective, and evolutionary impacts of digital technology on human life. My pieces probe the omnipresence of devices that pervade our lives, as well as how the digital revolution impacts people both individually and globally through the promises of connection, while the ever-present pressures of perpetual connectivity alter the relationships humans have with ourselves, and with each other. Voyeur-ism, mediated communication, slippages of reality, isolation, tech addiction and environmental impact are the focus of recent projects but the scope of my artistic research extends into surveillance culture, artificial intelligence, and strategies for archiving the analog. Far from simply nostalgic, my work pulses between fascination and repulsion with digital media and the cultures it engenders. I engage viewer participants in the precise sensation of dystopic relationality that pervades the age of human relations spawned by the ubiquity of the internet.

Through explorations of mass media, my work critiques the capitalism that has made hyper consumers of humans. In the world of the 20th century, radio programs or scheduled television shows ended. You got to the last page of a magazine, finished your newspaper article. The movie concluded, you said good-bye on the phone. These examples of self- regulation are now eclipsed by endless feeds, automatic loading, swiping left or right. No matter what you do, content keeps coming. Content has no end. And neither does our consumption. This mediated, screen-based world is the focus of my artistic projects and the foundation of my work.

I bring together disparate forms of media to comprise what I make: slick screens, tidy sculptures with immediate compositional impact. But with a closer look: things are coated in fleshy latex, masked to the point of blur and embedded with hair. Whether I render a photorealist oil painting of the blue screen glow that has become portraiture's new light, or I am pulling from social media to blur and confound videos screen grabbed while I wait on line, my work plays with the subtle and insidious ways we fade from one another's experiences as we tune ever further in to the tiny glow of our devices.

The critical force of my work is grounded in what I see all around me, and it is personal. I was raised in Cupertino, California, ground zero for what would become Silicon Valley. I witnessed firsthand the paradigmatic shift this new technology spawned. And as a parent, screens are my slipperiest target and I devote my work to uncovering the impact of progress on our very present psyche.