

---

*"Not everybody gets an award, but everybody needs a celebration." - Mary Pratt, 2016 EVA Awards*

---

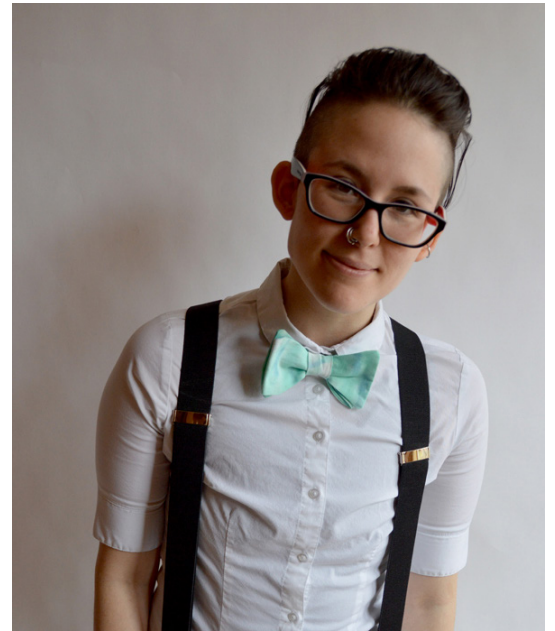
## Interview with Kailey Bryan: Part One

by Pepa Chan

### ***Why do you often choose to work in video and performance art?***

Video work has certain practical benefits when you're living on the island, because you don't have to pay for shipping when you send work away for exhibition. Video is also one of the mediums most relied on now to disseminate information and to advertise, so there are a wide variety of tropes and aesthetics that can be referenced and played with as a video artist. My video work to this point exclusively features my own body, performing for the camera. Performing in video is a form of self-portraiture, where time is a medium as much as physical materials.

Showing up physically in my own work gives me a greater degree of agency and accountability. Interactive performance is the most intense experience of this. It gives agency back to the viewer to affect the work by participating in it. Seeing a body manipulated by both time and materials gives the viewer a reference point to insert their own body, to think about the ways our different bodies have allowed us different motion through the world, and to experience the work more viscerally. I most often perform as myself, but set up strange physical and visual cues to direct the flow of conversation. I find when I show up in honesty and strangeness it encourages others to be more honest about their strange selves, and that is really special.



*Photo Credit: Jen Cake*

### ***How did winning the Emerging Artist EVA Award affect you?***

Winning the Emerging Artist Award was so unexpected and so uplifting, especially considering the wealth of talent we are surrounded by. It was a very special experience that allowed me to reflect on all the support I have received from the arts community here in developing my practice, and gave me even more incentive to give back to this tremendously creative place. The funds helped me to finance my next project, a durational performance and installation at Eastern Edge Gallery, and to donate to some organizations like Black Girl Dangerous and the poetry/art duo Dark Matter that are doing really important work to support and uplift marginalized voices.