

**Kristin Ann Melin**

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**Artist's Statement**

I am interested in shifts in power and identity, particularly subtle ones that happen in moments of inattention. Small acts accumulate as growth or change over time, enhancing and obscuring the identities of the things and people involved. Time integrates humans and their surroundings, physically and psychically.

I begin with human gestures or body parts, intimate and anonymous, and recreate them in an alternate material – something with a lifelike finish such as latex or pastel and wax, or sometimes a more dead, unyielding material like plaster or concrete. I recontextualize them further by combining them with each other or objects referencing the world our bodies interact with; plants, decomposing wood, city streets. These components seem to grow together organically or construct themselves, and often maintain a tenuous balance – either compositionally or actually.

Under these conditions I explore what new forces the parts bring out or extinguish in the whole; what might be gained by giving up power.

In the moment that my sculptures exist it is not always clear in what direction power is shifting – did the breasts gather as a community or were they poached and transformed into tenements? Are the hands cultivating the tiny flowers or have they been infested by them? The results can be creepy, humorous, or strangely sweet and comforting.