

Saxon Anderson

Recent Works

The
Superficial
Gender
Affirming
Care
Scare!



2024 - 2025

Artist Statement

My work aims to depict the lived realities of the transgender community to generate compassion from those unfamiliar with trans people and our values. Queering known image forms like infographics and educational materials, I provoke awareness by requiring interactive engagement with my pieces by appropriating the display style of education-focused museums.

I emulate familiar forms such as flash cards and trading cards, objects known for sharing valuable information. I use that playfulness and familiarity to make viewers more receptive to how the information being shared might challenge their prior assumptions.

Knowing that people are often apprehensive with smaller works, certain elements within the installation are intentionally scaled up, inviting the audience to handle them and directly engage with the content. Drawing on various aspects of transgender history in the human and natural world, my works emulate historical timelines and encyclopedias, encouraging viewers to apply this knowledge to our contemporary society.

When viewers receive information that challenges dominant social systems in an approachable way, new learning is possible. By intentionally addressing topics around transness, I force this subject into the public consciousness, something that has been aggressively opposed in recent years.

The Limited Timeline of U.S. Transgender History: Corner Rug & Info Card Set

2025, Installation of rug and info card handout





Alan L Hart

In **1917** Alan was one of the first transgender men to get a hysterectomy. He then went on to pioneer the use of X-ray detection in tuberculosis treatment.

While he went on to live his life as a man after **1917**, he still dealt with people questioning his gender, leading to him having to constantly move. I really admire how despite the harassment, Hart was able to stay steadfast to his passions and find ways to help others.

TRANS

1



Alan L Hart
TRANS

Michael Dillon

Michael Dillon is one of the first trans men to undergo phalloplasty, having received the surgery in **1946**.

As someone who has also medically transitioned, I know what it's like to go through major medical procedures that change your body, but to be the first person to experience those treatments is truly admirable.

TRANS

2



Michael Dillon
TRANS

Christine Jorgensen

Christine Jorgensen is known for being the first trans woman widely known in the United States for getting sex reassignment surgery. In 1952 she received a series of surgeries in Denmark.

With her transition being the subject of the New York Daily News, she wore the attention well becoming a fast celebrity. I think it's so cool how she was able to use the publicity around her surgeries to recenter her community.



3



Delisa Newton

In 1966 Delisa wrote an autobiographical article in the magazine Sepia where she discussed her experiences getting gender affirming surgery and transitioning. In that article she claims to be the first African American to receive sex reassignment surgery.

I think that her choice to share her transition with the public is very brave and highly commendable.



4



Marsha P Johnson

Marsha P Johnson is a hugely significant figure to queer history as a whole, not only trans history. A prominent activist during the Stonewall Riots in **1969**.

Marsha is the first person I think of when I think of someone essential to knowing trans history. Her bravery and leadership during major civil unrest is commendable to say the least.

TRANS

5



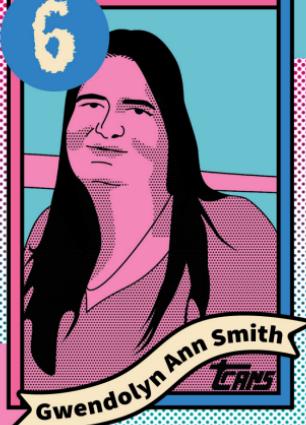
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Gwendolyn is a transgender activist who has done extensive work to highlight those who have lost their lives due to gender based violence. Smith also co-founded the Transgender Day of Remembrance in **1999** to honor those who have lost their lives due to transphobia.

I think the efforts she has taken to bring attention to those harmed by transphobia is incredibly honorable. She helps to keep their memory alive.

TRANS

6



Coy Mathis

In 2013 Coy was thrust into the public eye for wanting to use the girls restroom at her school. With a ruling in her favor, the case earned a major step forward in protections for trans kids.

The first time I learned about being transgender was through Coy Mathis. I was reading my dad's Rolling Stones magazines and I found an article about her. I thought she was so brave for what she did.

TRANS

7



Lia Thomas

Lia is the first openly trans athlete to win an NCAA Division 1 National Championship in 2022 for swimming, specifically. She deals with extensive controversy around her participation in the championship even today.

I know how being an athlete can affect your relationship to gender. Being a part of a gendered team puts additional strain on how gender plays into your identity. The way Lia was able to handle the media while staying true to herself is incredibly impressive.

TRANS

8



The Superficial Gender Affirming Care Scare!

2025, Wall mounted wood infographic book with vinyl transfer pages

The
Superficial
Gender
Affirming
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Scare!



Preface:

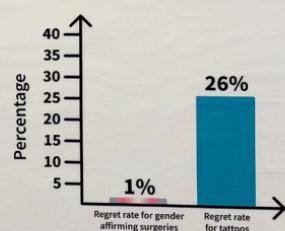
This book covers some examples of **regret** common in our society. It's often claimed that transgender people will **regret** the treatment we seek, and thus, we shouldn't have access to **important care**, such as gender-affirming surgeries like mastectomies or vaginoplasties.

This book is meant to provide an argument **against** those claims. I'm not saying that no trans person ever regrets the care they sought, simply that limiting an **entire community's** access to **essential care** due to a marginal group, especially when compared to some of these highly accessible services, is **unreasonable**.

The regret rate for gender-affirming surgeries sits at around 1% among trans people...

Let's see how it compares to:

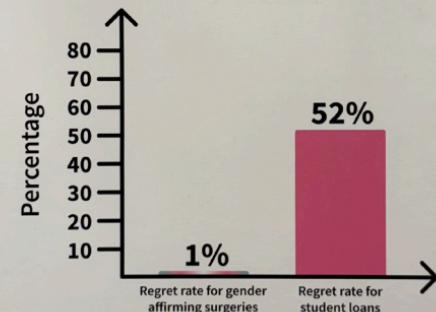
Tattoos:



The regret rate for gender-affirming surgeries sits at around 1% among trans people...

Let's see how it compares to:

Student Loans:



The regret rate for gender-affirming surgeries sits at around 1% among trans people...

Let's see how it compares to:

Cosmetic surgeries:



The regret rate for gender-affirming surgeries sits at around 1% among trans people...

Let's see how it compares to:

References:

Altunay, I. K., Güngör I. E., Ozkur, E., Aydin, C., Manav, V., Ozden, H. K., Ertekin, S. S., et al. (2022). Tattoos: demographics, motivations, and regret in dermatology patients. *Indian Journal of Dermatology*, 67(6).

Barbee, H., Hassan, B., & Liang, F. (2024). Postoperative regret among transgender and gender-diverse recipients of gender-affirming surgery, *JAMA Surg.*, 159(2).

Jones, H. E., Cruz, C., Stewart C., & Losken, A. (2023). Decision regret in plastic surgery: a summary." *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Global Open*, 11(6).

Hess, A. J. (2021, April 8) *More than half of older millennials with student debt say their loans weren't worth it*. CNBC.



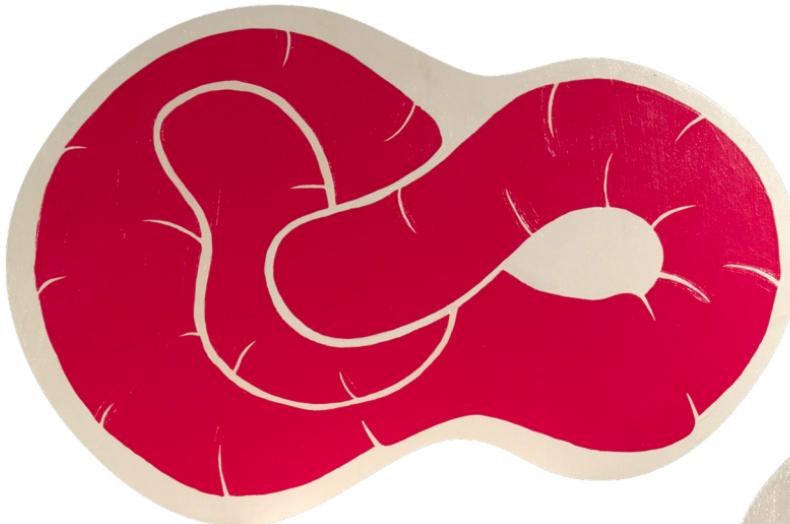
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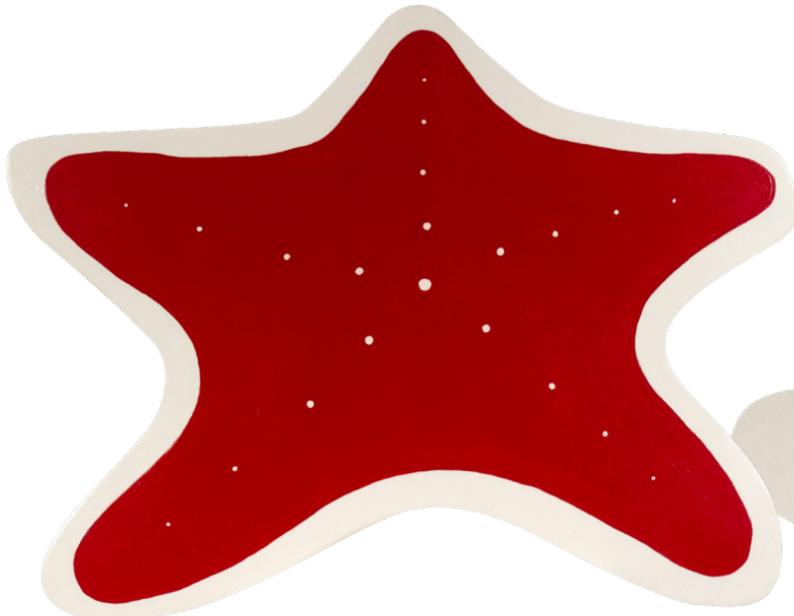
2025, Installation of interactive large scale wood animal boards with vinyl transfer text, held in wood crates





Earthworm

Earthworms have complete male and female reproductive systems, so they are simultaneous hermaphrodites



Sea Star

Protandrous sea stars start out as males and will transition to female at a certain age



Banana Slug

Banana slugs have both male and female reproductive organs, making them simultaneous hermaphrodites



Slipper Snail

Slipper Snails begin life as females and undergo sequential hermaphroditism, so they transition to male at a certain size



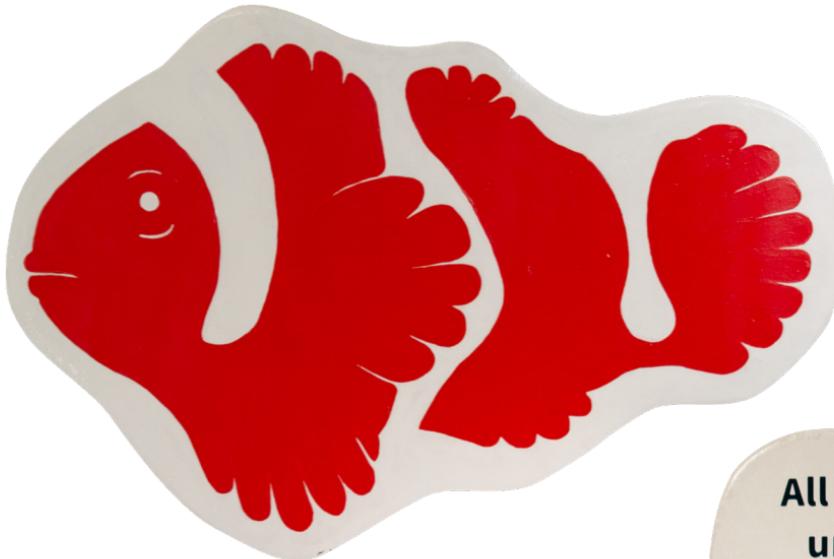
Hawkfish

If a male hawkfish takes on too many mates, one of the two larger females will transition to male and take on half of the harem



Green frog

Green frogs have been known to transition to female during their tadpole stage, dependent on environmental temperatures



Clownfish

All clownfish are born as males and undergo protandrous sequential hermaphroditism, meaning the largest becomes the dominant female, a permanent change

Saxon Anderson (b. 2002) Sarasota, FL

Saxon Anderson is an installation artist, generating works that reflect transgender realities that are understood through experiencing his works. He has a background with making book arts, and that can be seen in the form his works often take. Though his installations are primarily reminiscent of science museum exhibits, with bright colors and bold words drawing viewers in to learn more.

Using themes of science and history, Saxon's work teaches about gender-affirming care, gender-bending animals, and historical figures who have been underrepresented.

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