

An Klepel
2021-2023

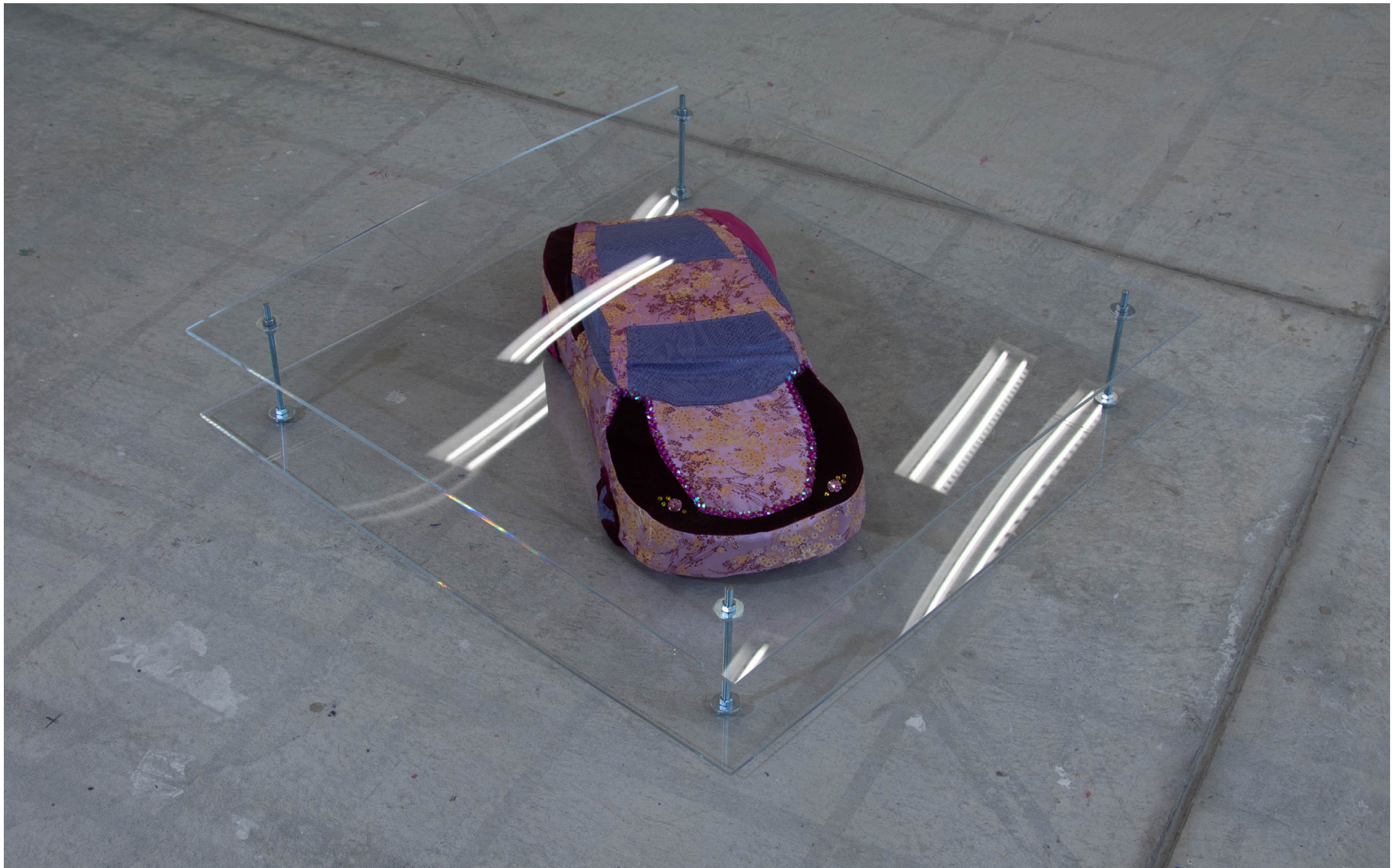
In our society, gender is seen as a foundational part of our identity. Yet identity is much more than an assigned gender that is based solely on our body, yet which might have no connection to who we are. Identity stems from our thoughts, ideas, aspirations, and dreams.

My intention is not to ignore societal constructs of gender norms but rather to play with them — I make objects and installations that appropriate stereotypes of femininity and masculinity and transpose them onto a world shaped by my understanding of gender, in which multiplicity and fluidity abound.

An object in itself doesn't have a gender. Objects are neutral bodies created to fulfill a function. Yet, we project identities onto objects and categorize them as we do with people. To a degree, we classify ourselves in order to feel safe and mirror this mechanism onto other things — we assess objects, people, and situations at first glance and decide whether to engage with them. I am interested in how we categorize inanimate objects by projecting gender stereotypes onto them.

While trying to neutralize these categories within my work, I often realized that I, in turn, would reinforce certain gender classifications. Therefore, I decided to exaggerate this mechanism, gendering everything from furniture to architecture to cars. By applying gender norms to everything, I am trying to subvert the influence that gender has on the construction of our identity.

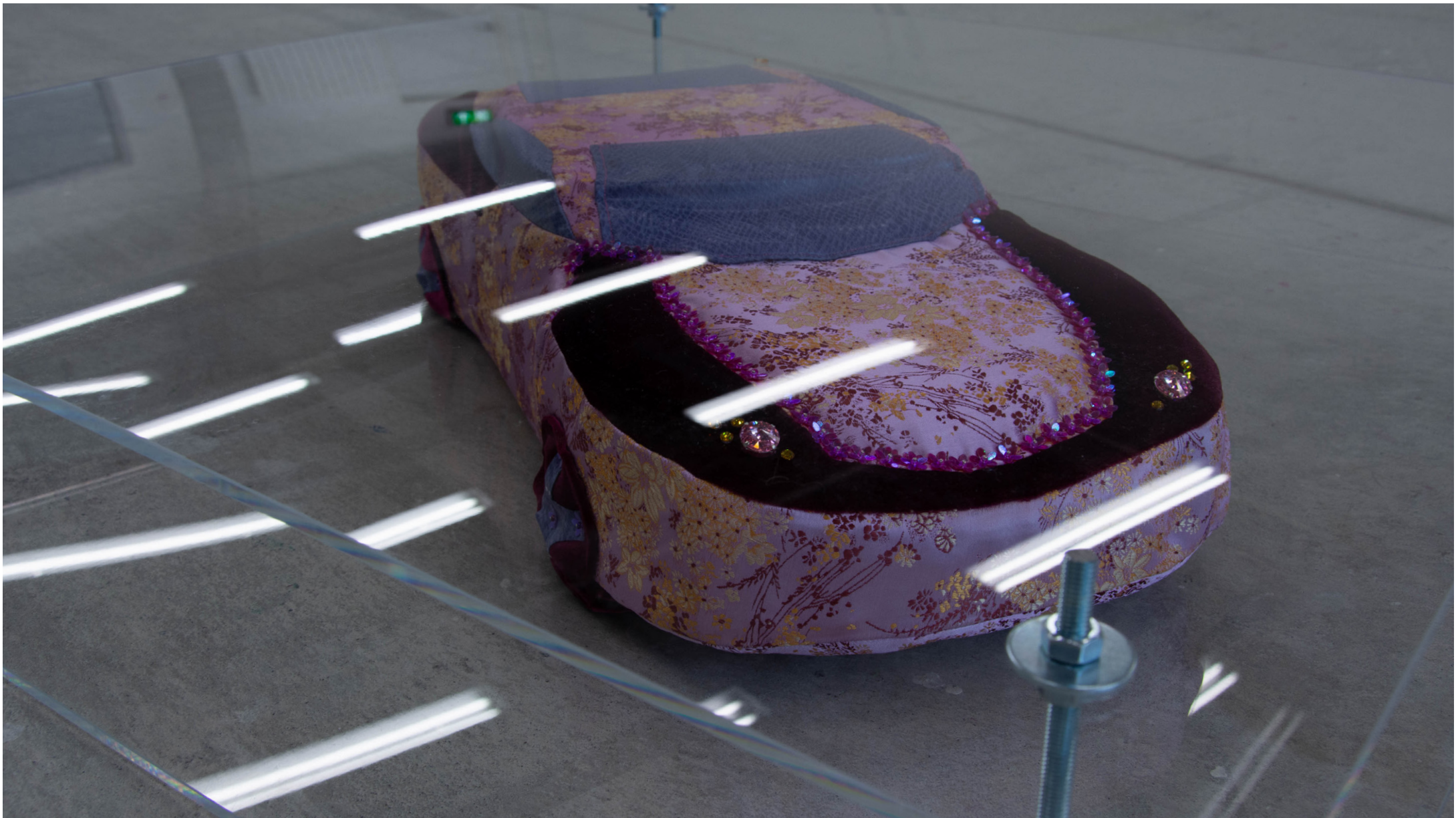
Sewing plays an essential role in my work. It allows me to construct objects that aren't definite — I can still alter them and attach and remove parts easily. I can change shapes, cut them apart and reassemble them. Sewing makes it possible to modify objects in the way I wish to alter my body. My works approach the subject of gender in a playful and fun way, which I realized is crucial for my self-expression as a trans person and for my artistic practice. I want to create safe spaces for myself and other queer folks by creating playgrounds upon which gender expression isn't limited to any norms.



A Pig That Doesn't Fly Is Just a Pig 2022

Foam, fabric, rhine stones, plexiglass, screws

80 x 80 x 16cm



In this work I combine the car as a symbol of masculinity with the act of sewing, which is often viewed as a feminine activity. The plexiglass functions as a display mechanism, but should also put pressure on the car and the binary standards the cars symbolize. It is a similar pressure to the one many trans people put on their body in altering it to match society's expectations.

MAKES YOU
FEEL LIKE THE
MAN YOU ARE

1023 531



Murray, I have asked you repeatedly not to call me 'woman'. 2022

Glass, water, fake hair, glitter, fur table, projection

Variable dimensions



This work is a celebration of gender fluidity; it is my attempt to construct my own gender outside of my body. It is fun, exuberance, textures, transparency, fluidity, an assemblage of different things, a cozy space that I share with my friends.



DUST IS GOLD.
DIRT IS FOR THE BOLD.



*„My dad’s a woman.“, says Nemo. (Sexchanging fish as a symbol of fluidity and liberation.
Deconstructing the gendered human body. Freeing trans bodies from binary expectations.) 2021
Soft pastels, oil on canvas, thread, 240 x 180cm*

Grand Theft Auto V

\$1031212605

Los Santos CUSTOMS

CATEGORIES 20 / 20

- Respray
- Roll Cage
- Roof
- Skirts
- Spoiler
- Suspension
- Transmission
- Turbo
- ★ Wheels

Los Santos CUSTOMS

BANSHEE

KARIN



1st Person Caps

Back Esc

Select



Spirited Away 2021

Oil on cardboard, stone bricks

5 paintings, 140 x 80 cm



A female body lost in a pink slur of expectations. Finding comfort in confusion and uncertainty. Detaching myself from a body that feels limited by norms and expectations.

An Klepel

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CV

Education

2020-2023

Bachelor of Fine Arts, ZHdK Zürcher Hochschule der Künste.

Group Exhibitions

2022

Fables of Rust, ZHdK

Potluck, Offspace Flüelastrasse

2021

Swamp Tales, ZHdK

Trasticube, ZHdK