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Thesis Statement

Alice Marie Perreault
Spring 2015

I start with the body, dependent first upon its internal relations, and I consider how it can be deceived by itself, resulting in confused and even violated sensibilities. Its inherency is interlaced into every cell, behavior and structure for living. So much a part of existence, dependency has the ability to be invisible. It can be strengthened, disjoined and rebuilt, not in a linear, nor singular way, but multifaceted, cyclical and overlapping like systems of neuro-pathways.

I want to make this invisibility of dependency visible and in so doing maybe I can better recognize its deceptions. I go about this effort by considering different ends of the following spectrum:

Art is often divided into two camps: one with an intellectual and conceptual nature; the other emotional, spiritual and even romantic. The importance of these two has teetered historically. Choosing between intellect and emotion does not support my intention and is no different for me than separating brain from body, a grossly dependent relationship. Making a well-balanced hybrid between the two extremes is my objective.

For me, art and science are interlocking. If, for example, I consider healing as an element of content I am aware of this content both emotionally and physiologically. Under stress, healing is microscopically accelerated. Scientific studies show how newly formed stem cells develop under stressful situations. These cells can be used for the repair of neuro-damage, neuronal diseases, and fertility treatments. This remarkability is fuel for my work. There are many divides that can interfere with the process. Interventions, themselves, lead to other questions and new challenges. In this way, content for my work is infinite.

It's interesting how such relationships on a physically molecular level are mirrored in the bigger social field where controlling factors dominate families, societies and governments. Working from a personally vulnerable perspective offers opportunity to share ties of this micro-reality with the macro-world. I can reveal what was previously hidden or dismissed as pitifully "other" through reminders that we are all vulnerable. We are all dependent. And with genuine sensitivity, I can ask the question, "How is dependency on an individual level manifested socially?" Mark making through drawing, painting, squishing, pulling, scratching, knotting, dipping and so on is my "micro." It is where emotion lies. While objects of medical-science and bio-technology combined with every-day, common articles become my "macro," where intellect speaks. The more challenging it is to build this relationship, where I moderate between both ends, the more I am compelled to try.