

Bobbi Meier

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Buttoned-up/Extrovert is part of a series of fiber-based “portraits” I have been making for several years. Vintage needlepoint chair coverings were given to me by a dear friend who was gravely ill. Wrapping the inverted tapestries on oval canvases in my studio, I am reminded of cameos and portraits of long-passed relatives and family gatherings where emotions run high and personalities clash. Manipulating sexually loaded materials—spandex and pantyhose, bits of lace and gel medium—provocative forms question viewers’ perceptions. Organic shapes allude to creases and folds of the body. A dichotomy of seduction and revulsion exists, where fragments are re-constructed to become assemblages of grotesque beauty. Hand-sewn production is simultaneously an act of aggression, catharsis, and a remembrance of surgeries, illnesses and my role as a caregiver.

Bottom left: **Bobbi Meier**, *Buttoned-up* (left) / *Extrovert* (right), 2019. Pantyhose, fiberfill, spandex, repurposed tapestry, stretched canvas, 24 x 18 in.

Top right: **Bobbi Meier**, *Buttoned-up* (detail), 2019. Pantyhose, fiberfill, spandex, repurposed tapestry, stretched canvas, 24 x 18 in.

Bottom right: **Bobbi Meier**, *Extrovert* (detail), 2019. Pantyhose, fiberfill, spandex, repurposed tapestry, stretched canvas, 24 x 18 in.

