

**WHITNEY HODER**

**BIO**

Whitney Hoder (b. 1998, Bothell, WA) is a multimedia artist who works in photography, performance art, sculpture, and writing. She attended Cornish College of the Arts and graduated with a BFA in 2021.

Whitney Hoder struggled in school with having an Individualized Education Program. Not only did teachers treat her differently, but most doubted her knowledge as well. At the age of 10, Whitney's parents divorced and she and her younger sister were raised solely by their dad. The family struggled with housing and money, but their dad worked hard in a retail job. With that in mind, Hoder found comfort in art when taking a drawing class that then led to taking photography throughout high school. In her freshman year of college she found themes she wanted to cover, including trauma and family. Both play a big part in her art, and she brings her personal narratives to showcase. Hoder focuses on themes that are diminished in society, and her art practice has allowed her to heal. Hoder suppressed her feelings about her trauma for a long time, and when she found other artists who made work similar to her pain, she felt less alone. It inspired her to want to do the same for others and herself.

**STATEMENT**

My work is uncategorizable. I don't define my work in a particular way. It's just art. I came into the art world through photography, and throughout my journey, I've found other possibilities. I explore different scenarios, mediums, and forms. The unknown in art has always been attractive and intimidating, like a crush. It's scary to leave the box of comfort where you know certain skills, but allowing yourself to open to anything is fascinating. A photograph can turn into a sculpture or anything you want it to be. There's no rule that says your work has to meet certain criteria. So I asked myself, why do we need categories and labels?

I explore themes of trauma, women's sexuality, and family. These are important to me, but don't always play a big role in society. I've rarely discussed these things, and when they were discussed, they were undervalued — much like they have been throughout time. I make art about personal things that have happened in my life, hoping to connect with someone else. I hope to make others realize the value in these themes.