

Over your Head Artist Statement for Orchis

This series investigates the convergence of masculinity and femininity. Referencing Eastern philosophies, it is a visual study of the notion that two seemingly opposite or contrary forces are actually interconnected, that one cannot exist without referencing and understanding the other. It is an exploration of the unexpected equilibrium created when two opposing attributes are juxtaposed together.

The Paphiopedilum (a species of Orchid) is the muse, an archetype that embodies both masculine and feminine traits that seem to coexist together as one in balance and harmony. The etymology of its name comes from the Ancient Greek ὄρχις (órkhis), literally meaning "testicle", because of the shape of the root and yet a flower is a symbol of femininity. The Paphiopedilum is phallic in form and stature; conveying virility, and yet sensuously feminine in its curves. Its materiality seems delicate a commonly feminine trait, through its translucency yet it is firm to the touch, divulging its strength.

Conveyed through a universal visual language and astute use of materials the masculine and feminine traits above are referenced within the pieces. Six voluptuous forms emulating both feminine and masculine silhouettes were created, each displaying various amounts of transparency and opacity. The materials used reference both strong and fragile qualities which also display varying degrees of texture that create an ambiguous aura of masculine and feminine.