

Aimee Howard
Artist Statement
“Wild Type” Series

Contemporary medicine has become quite remarkable with ever improving capabilities to fight ailments, cure diseases, and increase the quantity/quality of life. However this success comes at a price. To benefit from such resources, one must be willing to undergo a series of investigative processes such as insertion of foreign material, extraction of native material, and manipulation of chemical and biological functions. Such medical procedures generate a state of vulnerability, which is permitted with the promise of enlightenment.

Although the patient is a major participant in the explorative processes, it is rare that they will fully comprehend what is actually occurring. Today western healing is often paradoxically bound to depersonalization. The patient will be spoken to in uninterruptible medical jargon, and then presented with a pill or injection that inexplicably cures their disorder to some degree. Most are satisfied with this lack of detail as long as problems can be remedied.

Pieces from the *Wild Type* Series are intended to portray both the investigative process of medicinal science as well as the mysticism that results from such exploration. I chose to use plants, particularly fruits, as representation for the human body. The physical framework of plants is similar to our own, a layer of thin skin housing a fleshy interior which protects its seeds or future offspring. Furthermore, plants go through vigorous testing and alterations in pursuit of contemporary medicines for human ailments.