

Michael Magnussen

Flaming Helmet, 2022, digital photograph

Artist statement

This is part of an ongoing match series where I use the material of matches to speak to my identity as a flamboyant or flaming Queer person, often lighting the ornamental work while wearing it.

This piece takes the same material but is inspired by a meme I saw during the pandemic.

knowyourmeme.com/photos/1784137-flattenthecurve

I decided to make a wreath around my face to speak about the distance and isolation that I was feeling at the time. Using a match as a barrier so people could not get close.

The work is an extension of that meme and speaks a bit to vulnerability I was experiencing while also trying to express how threatening the virus felt to me at the time.

The work is open to interpretation though the hope is that people get a push and pull sense that there is a struggle between been protected and in danger at the same time.

The work is an inkjet print from the series and was created to allow the work to be shown without the physical mask.