

MARINA DIETRICH

Artist Statement

I frequently perceive two spaces in the world: the real and the virtual. I exist, at once, alone and with the virtual. The merging of the two is something that takes precedence within my work. I search for elements of the “real” within the virtual and vice versa.

The making and taking of my artistic practice primarily occurs online and within my phone. Through the incorporation of found imagery, I assume the role of a facilitator. The usage of found imagery is a method for uncovering a shared human nature often found in the corners of the internet. In *Hide and Seek* (pages 2-4), I observe individuals selling their mirrors online. Shown as a collective unit, the work considers multiplicity, privacy, and ownership. Working with the display of the multiple, I take inspiration from artists such as Lorna Simpson and Sophie Calle.

I also work with my own relationship to the virtual. Informed by the ideology of the Panopticon, *Me and Her* (page 1) disrupts the relationship between the watched and the watcher, as well as the real and the virtual. The phone exists as an extension of myself, a being, a mirror, and a record-keeping device (*Diary*, pages 5-11). The archive of my data and my consciousness of virtual information both inspire and frighten me. My curiosity and my fear are the forces that work together to drive my work.