

NATALIA BONCZEK

## Misster E (2019)

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### On the cover: Artist's statement

Acrylic on canvas, 32"x36"

*This painting is a commentary on the increase in popularity of drag performance in pop culture. This painting is the alter ego of my non-binary drag persona named Misster E, a gender-bending, glamorous drag king. Drag culture has gained more traction through drag queens and shows such as RuPaul's Drag Race, and drag queens have been featured on beauty magazines; however, there is less representation of drag kings in mass media. This painting is set in a household, signifying a more intimate photoshoot, aided by trusted artist Molly Darlene Short, rather than on a stage or set where you would often see drag performances. Misster E is encouraging us to write our own stories about gender and who we are. Through this alter ego, I present a more confident self, unharmed by the harsh binaries of expectations of "normal woman" or "normal man." This painting may be uncomfortable because it challenges these norms, but I also hope to create space for alternative interpretations of gender and the performance of it.*



