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Beyond the Bell Curve

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Beyond the Bell Curve

Pernille Fraser



***Beyond the Bell Curve* (2019). [Click image to view.](#)**

Artist's Statement: *Beyond the Bell Curve* is a mixed media installation that plays on historical restricted views of neurodivergent thinking, needs, and existence. A bell curve is often used to display “normal distribution” within a population and is widely used to measure performance throughout our society, from human resource approaches to business practices. Bell curves traditionally focus on the middle, the perceived mean of a targeted research population, and not necessarily the outliers--in fact, outliers can be moved to the edges and even excluded. As outliers, neurodivergent individuals frequently do not see themselves reflected in research using bell curves.

But what is an outlier? Autistic women and pregnant women, for example, have often been excluded from large tranches of research due to biased male hypotheses and theories. Neurodivergency is subject to infinite variation and is a necessary part of humanity. This piece invites the infinite constellations and variables of our minds back into view.

Pernille Fraser is a dyslexic, autistic artist who resides in the UK. Eleven years ago, Pernille returned to her creative roots as a multidiscipline artist, after initially working in fashion and textiles, finance, and teaching. She writes this about her work: “My practice sits between place and system, in the realm of sensory experience. It harvests from interactions with both internal and external space(s).”

Editor’s Note: *Beyond the Bell Curve* was first featured at “An Installed Open House” (Brighton, UK), 2019-2020.