

## **Eric Anthony Berdis**

### Artist Statement:

Derived from childhood fantasies my work explores the metamorphosis of a becoming. Set among playful plush objects, sculptures, and drawings their performance seeks to simulate the jarring experience of being stereotyped while simultaneously examining the ways we navigate towards and create safe spaces. Loud sequined materials are reassembled as uniforms for a dystopic queer world. Each object holds a peculiar function, none of which are to clothe the body or to cover uncomfortable truths of shame. With unrelenting confrontation with the audience, I make the viewer a mirror and forces one to reckon with their own reactions to what has been crafted as both one's best fantasy and worst nightmare.

### Bio:

Originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, they received their BFA from Slippery Rock University in 2013. In 2016, he was awarded the opportunity to study at Tyler School of Art in the Fibers & Material Studies Department as a post-baccalaureate student. In 2017 Eric completed the Fabric Workshop & Museum apprentice program. Eric has had solo exhibitions at Random Access Gallery, in Syracuse, New York, Practice Gallery Philadelphia, Bunker Projects, Pittsburgh and Project 1612 in Peoria, Illinois.