

## **Artist Statement**

### **Adelaide Lo**

*Entity* is a performance piece that challenges the views of beauty and power when relating male archetypes to the female figure. Throughout history, humans have been portrayed in the form of statues. Although every culture has their own way of representing the male and female forms, there are archetypal male figures that are universal across the globe.

The twenty minutes long performance consists of a female performer posing in universal male gestures. The archetypes are not specific to a certain culture, or to a particular time in history. It would instead be identified as the archetypal male stance. The performer transforms very subtly from one pose to another in order to maintain the representation of a statue.

When viewing iconic male gestures, it is obvious that they all contain a status. There are three qualities that the figures have in common. The first is that they are all confident. The male statues are often shown with their heads tilted high and with their bodies straight, whether they are in a sitting or standing posture. Secondly, they also appear to be very strong. Their arms and legs are very sturdy and firm, no matter the size of their bodies. Lastly, they all appear to be authoritative figures. The poses that the statues take shows power and control, no matter the context they are placed in.

On the other hand, the female figure often appears to be gentle, soft, and fragile. The stances that statues of females hold are not as strong or as confident. Their heads may be tilted downwards instead of slightly upwards. Instead of holding a strong stance that shows power, their arms and legs are very weak. This portrayal shows females with a very delicate body, but it can also portray females as not being capable of performing duties related to power.

***Entity*** challenges the way North Americans view women by forcing iconic male gestures onto a female figure. Since it is unusual to see the ideal male poses portrayed on a female body, it allows the viewer to recognize how women have been seen throughout history and to question themselves what is just. If their initial reactions upon viewing the poses do not coincide with their preconceived expectations of women, then perhaps they must question themselves and their subconscious views.