

Don't mind if I do
July 7, 2023 – January 7, 2024
moCa Cleveland

Welcome to my access fantasy !!

I'm disabled and I need to sit and I love to sit. I've been dreaming about an exhibition where instead of having to move from artwork to artwork, I could sit somewhere comfortable and have the artwork come to me. So voilà! Here, we have a conveyor belt of artworks surrounded by a variety of seating options.

When planning this project, a big question was: what artwork should the conveyor carry? The artists, writers, and thinkers featured here nourish my life and practice, and I can't resist a chance to share their work. Each of the objects presented asks for varied ways of interacting and opens up possibilities for how and what an artwork can convey.

I invite you to find a spot to your liking. From there, you have options for how you might experience the work. Chose one or a combo:

- Watch as a parade of objects moves by you.
- Pick something up and spend some time with it. Touching things is very much encouraged (though of course, touch with tenderness).
- Listen to audio descriptions available at stations around the conveyor belt or via www.mocacleveland.org/AD (the transcript is there too).

Don't mind if I do,
Finnegan Shannon

Finnegan Shannon is a creator of loopholes. Their work is mischievous, methodically chipping away at traditional museum practices. By framing institutional change as artwork, the pace of possibility quickens. With Shannon at the helm, *Don't mind if I do* is an experiment in more deeply collaborative exhibition-making, demonstrating how even temporary changes in power structures create pathways of access for visitors, artists, and staff.

Grounded in a longtime fantasy of the artist's – an idea of an exhibition setup that would lavishly meet their access needs – this project developed around a conveyor belt. Embraced for its efficiency and mechanized transport of goods (even sushi), this equipment is reappropriated here as a vehicle for cultivating a more relaxed museum-going experience. The conveyor belt brings artwork to audience members, who are invited to sit on comfortable furniture and engage with a parade of objects through any combination of touch, sight, and sound.

Sharing the work of seven artists who have influenced Shannon's practice, *Don't mind if I do* blurs boundaries between public and private. It puts representations of everyday life that are usually tucked away at home on display. Plastic pill bottles scattered across nightstands share space with a tissue box cover that reminds us of moments of sickness and sadness. Sculptural snapshots of an intimate interspecies bond sit beside gender-affirming packers that feel most at home tucked inside our clothes. They signify illness, reveal systems of support, and are used in play.

Don't mind if I do destabilizes rigid ableist and exclusionary museum "best practices" like sparse seating, untouchable objects, dense wall labels, and guards who protect rather than invite engagement. It is a project built upon a framework of flexibility. By welcoming glitches, inviting informality and messiness, and unsettling the hierarchy of objects, *Don't mind if I do* prioritizes people over artwork and makes more room for us to show up as our full selves.

Don't mind if I do is organized by artist Finnegan Shannon with Curator Lauren Leving. Thank you to Peter Reese for technical direction; Exhibitions Director Ray Juare; Creative Director Tom Poole; Registrar Jamie Sepich; Exhibition Technicians Ewuresi Archer, Susan Danko, Jesse Huettner, Nolan Juare, Natalie Lanese, Josh Richey, Colton Rossiter, and Paul Sydorenko; moCa Engagement Guides for their stewardship of this space; and the entire moCa Cleveland staff.

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