

TRANSSEXUAL/TRANSVESTITE SCRAPBOOK

Transformers

DIEGO MARCHANTE

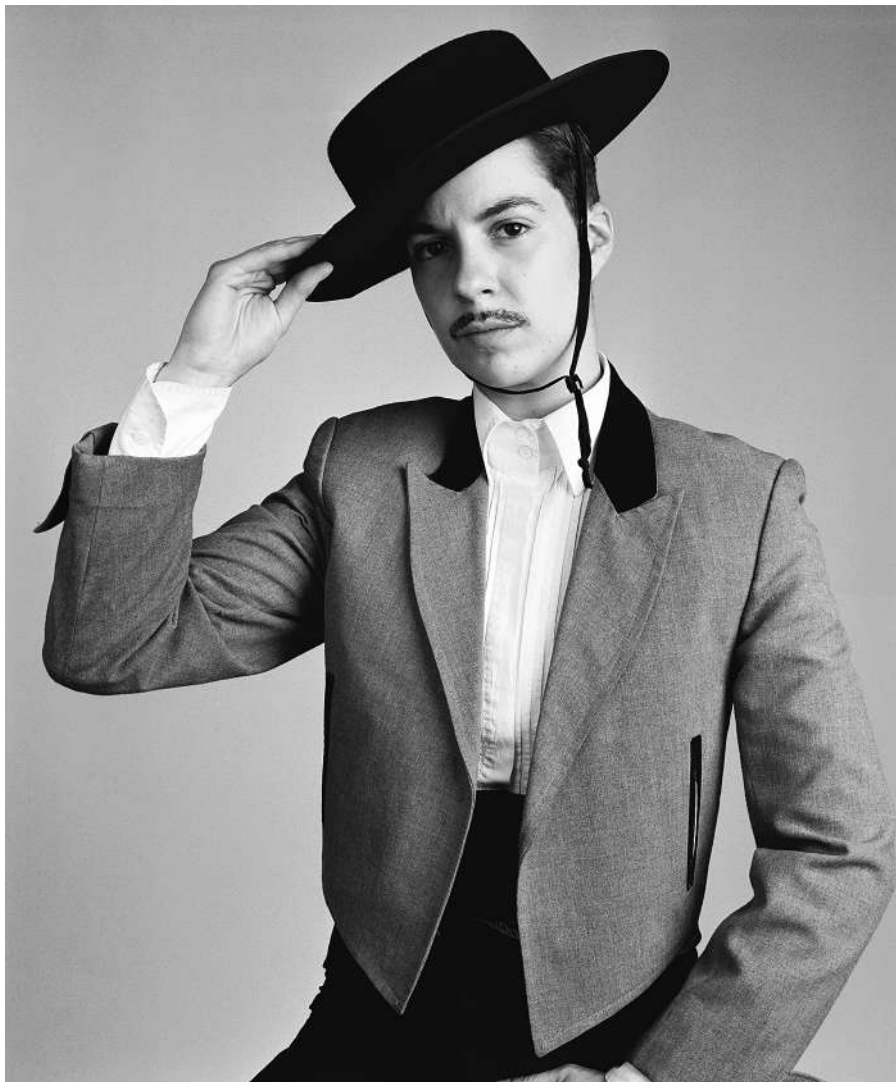


Figure 1. Diego Marchante "Genderhacker," *Curro* (2010). Transformers series.



Figure 2. Diego Marchante "Genderhacker," *Curro's Revelation* (2010). Transformers series.

En esta imagen, vemos a Curro, un joven novillero que encarna el estereotipo del torero: héroe nacional, símbolo de poder, coraje y bravura española. Y nos hace toda una revelación. Deconstruye uno de los estereotipos más castizos del nuestro contexto, y al mismo tiempo, subvierte el propio álbum familiar, ya que desafía la prohibición en la niñez de acudir con traje de campero a las fiestas populares.

Esta serie fotográfica forma parte de *Transformers*, un proyecto artístico que visibiliza el travestismo de las lesbianas *butch*, los *drag kings* y los trans* masculinos. Vidas que deconstruyen la afirmación de que la masculinidad no es performativa, un imperativo cultural que mantiene que esta masculinidad es un privilegio único de los hombres. Vidas que resisten a las estrategias de normalización y construcción del género a través de la performance (*drag king*) o del propio cuerpo (transgénero). A través de una serie de fotografías realizadas en 2010, subvierto algunas de las masculinidades heroicas que circulan en España. A través de herramientas como la parodia y el travestismo desestabilizamos los planteamientos binarios de género que dominan los cuerpos e intentamos superar las rígidas categorías que suponen lo masculino y lo femenino. Este proyecto, en consecuencia, trata sobre el constante deslizamiento pendular entre la representación y la identificación de los cuerpos. La mezcla entre el travestismo en el escenario y la masculinidad fuera de él sugiere que la línea entre lo *drag* y lo transgénero se confunde permanentemente. En mi caso, pudiendo elegir la opción de vivir la masculinidad de una manera más orgánica e integrada en la vida cotidiana.

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In this image, we see Curro, a young steer (bull) handler, who embodies the stereotype of the Spanish bullfighter: a national hero and a symbol of power,

courage, and Spanish bravado. And he makes quite a revelation: he deconstructs one of our most contextually pure-blooded Spanish stereotypes, while at the same time subverting the family photo album as he openly defies the childhood prohibition of attending village parties in a traditional country suit.

This photographic series is part of *Transformers*, an artistic project that makes visible cross-dressing among butch lesbians, drag kings, and trans* masculine individuals. These are lives that deconstruct the assertion that masculinity is not performative, that is to say, a cultural imperative that preserves masculinity as a privilege reserved solely for men. These are lives that, be it through performance (drag king) or their very own bodies (transgender), resist strategies of normalization and gender construction. Using a series of photographs taken in 2010, I subvert some of the heroic masculinities that circulate within Spain. Through the use of tools such as parody and cross-dressing, I destabilize the binary perspectives of gender that dominate bodies and attempt to overcome the rigid categories that signify masculinity and femininity. This project, therefore, addresses the constant pendular swinging between the representation and identification of bodies. The blending of cross-dressing onstage and masculinity off-stage suggests that the line between drag and transgender becomes permanently muddled. In my case, this means being able to choose to live my masculinity in a more organic way, integrated into my daily life.

Diego Marchante (“Genderhacker”) is a transfeminist activist, transmedia artist, and lecturer with a doctorate in fine arts from the University of Barcelona. He is professor of audiovisuals and gender studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts. In 2011 he published *Archivo T*, an archive of social movements and artistic practices that have addressed gender issues in the Spanish context from a queer and transfeminist perspective. His work has been exhibited at Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB), Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA), and National Museum Art Center Reina Sofia (MNCARS). In 2020 his project *Gendernaut: Queering the 90’s* was selected for the MNCARS’s Our Many Europes—Europe’s Critical 90s project, organized by the network of European Museums L’Internationale.