

**Rebecca Donohue
Self Portraits**

Deriving from my hatred of small talk and fill-the-silence conversation, this series of work depicts many of my answers for the question “how are you doing?”. I am sick of people writing off this question by replying with the generic “good” because the truth is, you are not always good. Why is it society’s first instinct to mask the hardships and the highpoints with surface level responses? Throughout my undergraduate career there were numerous times when “How are you doing?” would be either a very poignant “great!” or prompt a breakdown and send me into a panic attack. These panic attacks felt near death. They begin with an overwhelming amount of anxiety, then a hot flash, and end with feeling unconscious, but completely alert at the same time. Through this Untitled series of work, I invite the viewer to think about how each of my inner “selves” are a direct link to “how I am doing”.

Underwater:

“I don’t have time for this” is something I have been saying more and more frequently as I grow older. Regardless if it’s a long line at my local coffee shop on a day where I should not have hit snooze five times or removing myself from a relationship with a toxic person, time is of the essence.

Isolation, fear, and the unknown are represented through the blackest blacks and each subject is uplifted to guide the viewer toward a sense of hope. The dark spaces are those things that we don’t have time for.