

## **Loring Taoka: Artist Statement**

I think a lot about how I move through space. How I carry myself, how I'm viewed, how I change my demeanor in order to adapt. All versions of Loring have been fine-tuned to assess a situation and determine how I present myself. I think frequently about who I am and how my existence inhabits an ambiguous state. Being a queer, Japanese-American has required me to be constantly engaged with perception and negotiation, in terms of how I am viewed, how I view others, and how I view myself. This has laid the foundation for my work.

Using basic geometry allows me to engage with recognizable forms while questioning how they are defined and at what point they become unrecognizable. A circle is a circle and its definition is strict. A circle is a circle, but does our perception of an implied circle make it a circle? Shapes are distorted to that threshold to occupy a transitional moment; they are simultaneously seen as what they were and are. These visual cues require us to question what we are seeing as well as the potential of the image. This moves the work along a loop between multiple, amorphous spaces.

I am interested in looking and seeing, asking questions about how we look and see, and the fundamental questions of looking and seeing. What are we looking at? How do I understand what I am seeing? And how are images read and understood?