

CHRIS SOLLARS
Artist Statement

Global warming and social injustice are a catalyst for me to subvert public space through absurd performance interventions merging art, food, and music. Since 1996 I have worked within the landscape and the street to have immediate interaction with a public audience and to collect society's detritus, trash, and artifacts for sculptures. Working with an anti-capitalist frame my process is physical and conceptual as I collide dissimilar materials to create an unexpected form that is often comedic. The results are documented using photography, sound, and video that are integrated into mixed-media installations. For the last seven years instrument construction, music, and lyrics have become an integral way to turn my discontent for man made environmental and social catastrophes into soundtracks for my work as a form of Amplified Listening. Amplified Listening is a process through which I listen to myself, others, nonhumans, and spaces to amplify what I am hearing. This motivation to listen is informed by questioning institutional racist and homophobic societal structures which started in my upbringing as a straight cis male raised by Lesbians in the 1980s. Through this research of questioning, feeling, looking, and listening I create playful solitary and social performances mediated through outfits and props to investigate my internal questioning and to help contribute thoughtful collective experiences. As I value solitary investigations, collaboration is equally vital to my work for creating art, films, TV shows, meals, performances, and forming bands as artworks.