



*Frankenstein, 2024*

Sam Avery

### **Description**

I've always felt like I exist somewhere in-between the binary; not along the visible spectrum anywhere, but in the fine print. This painting represents my past and present challenges with living as a stereotypically masculine-presenting gay woman; and then, as a queer non-binary person with gender-affirming hormone experience. In a cis-heteronormative society that is wary to accept either identity, the cage reinforces the existence of constraint and control imposed on queer bodies by cultural expectations of the way in which a "typical" body should conduct itself. Society can dehumanize queer bodies; viewing us as fragmented or incomplete because our very existence rebels against the cookie-cutter molds of femininity, womanhood, masculinity and manhood that have been neatly prescribed to us since birth. "Frankenstein" represents feelings and themes of disconnection, alienation, and breaking through the ties that bind us.