

*Notes for Whole Property*

Mark Barker

Chocolate is very dear to me; every day I eat a portion. Sometimes I eat too much, and it shows up on the outside of me, along the edges. Two hips have a great bodily symmetry.

More or less, the works in this show revolve the around the food I eat and mechanics that support its digestion. My body is always working; things arrive in one state and leave in another. The food shifts and transforms as it makes its way through. At points, parts of it become parts of me.

I wanted to understand how a domestic toilet works from the inside out. If I were inside the waste pipe looking up, what would my bathroom look like? Could I fit my head in the bowl? Would my foot fit inside the trap? Can I maneuver my body to get around the bend? What would it smell like? Would the bowl feel cold on my skin? What if my cistern were soft?

I used to associate floating toilets with nice hotel bathrooms, but now they are more affordable and common in homes. They're reassuringly sleek, making the whole toilet experience feel cleaner and modern. Where do germs gather around these more elevated toilets?

Picture a view of the city through a camera with a fisheye lens: the city looks bulbous. You are zooming into the action, becoming more and more microscopic, layer by layer, panning in, panning out, back and forth, through the skin of the building, into the bathroom, down into the bowl, into the body, and out again.

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