



# Disability Art In Motion: Round Table

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November 22<sup>nd</sup> | McClure Gallery | 3:30 - 5:30

Jessie Stainton, [Jessie.Stainton@gmail.com](mailto:Jessie.Stainton@gmail.com)

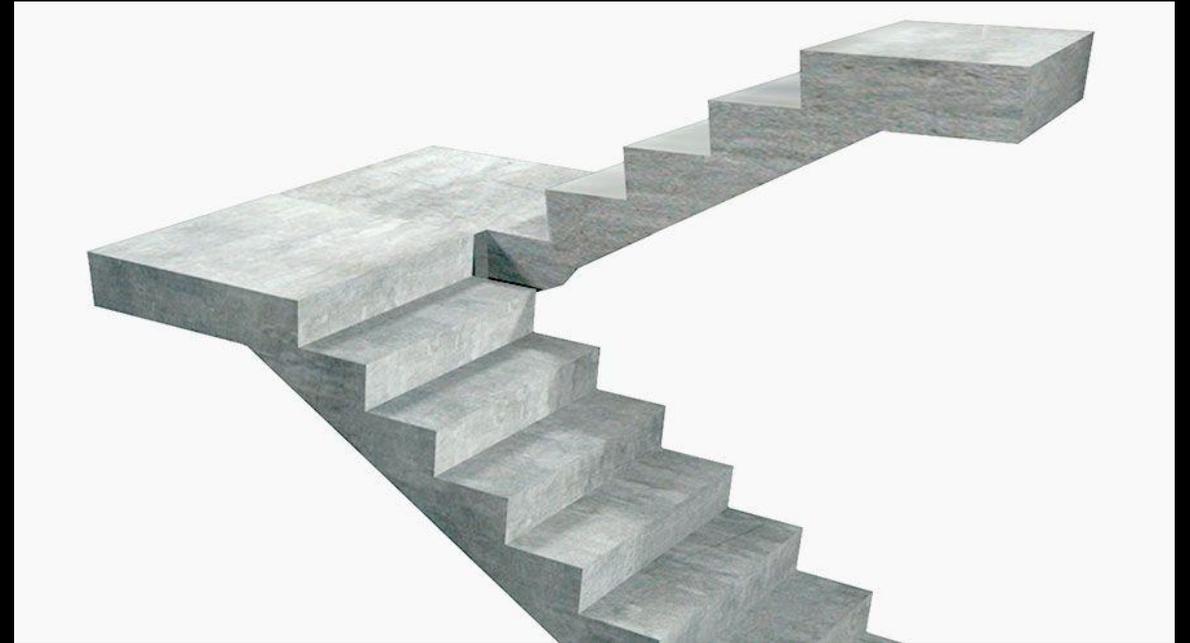
As part of Emery Vanderburgh's [Disabled Habitus: Movement and Biodiversity](#)

# What is Disability?

- There is no singular 'correct' definition.  
Disability is relational and intersectional ([Kafer 2013](#)).
- Both the construction and the experience of disability are intertwined with lived experience and access to resources.
- While disability is a unifying term, every individual experience of disability is different.

# Medical Model versus Social Model

- Helpful distinction to think about disability as an individual versus societal problem.
- Developed in the 70s and 80s in the UK by the Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS), expanded by [Mike Oliver](#).
- Big step in changing about the way people think about disability.



# Medical Model

- Disability is viewed as a problem inherent to the individual's body or mind.
- Disability is a personal tragedy or deficit.
- Able body = normal and natural.
- Emphasis is placed on diagnosing, treating or segregating disabled people.

# Medical Model

"soo cute!!"

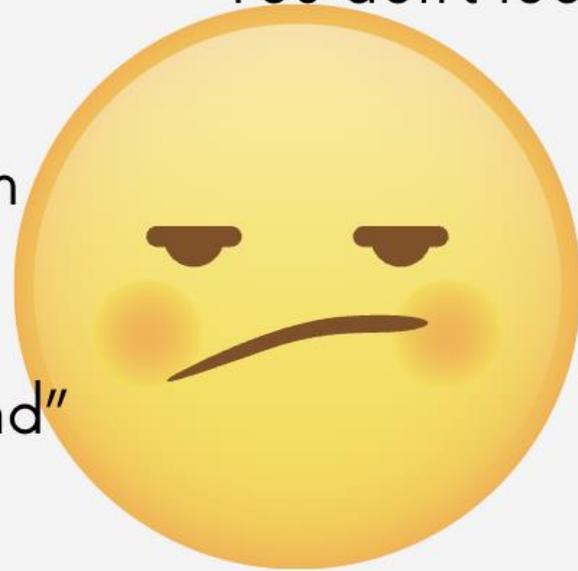
"You don't look disabled"

"You're in the  
Special education  
Program"

"Tragic"

"Wheelchair bound"

"inspiring"



# Social Model

- Disability is shaped by the barriers and attitudes imposed by social constructions.
- Bodily variation, illness and impairment is natural, our experience of them is shaped by access to resources and care.
- Expresses disability as an identity.

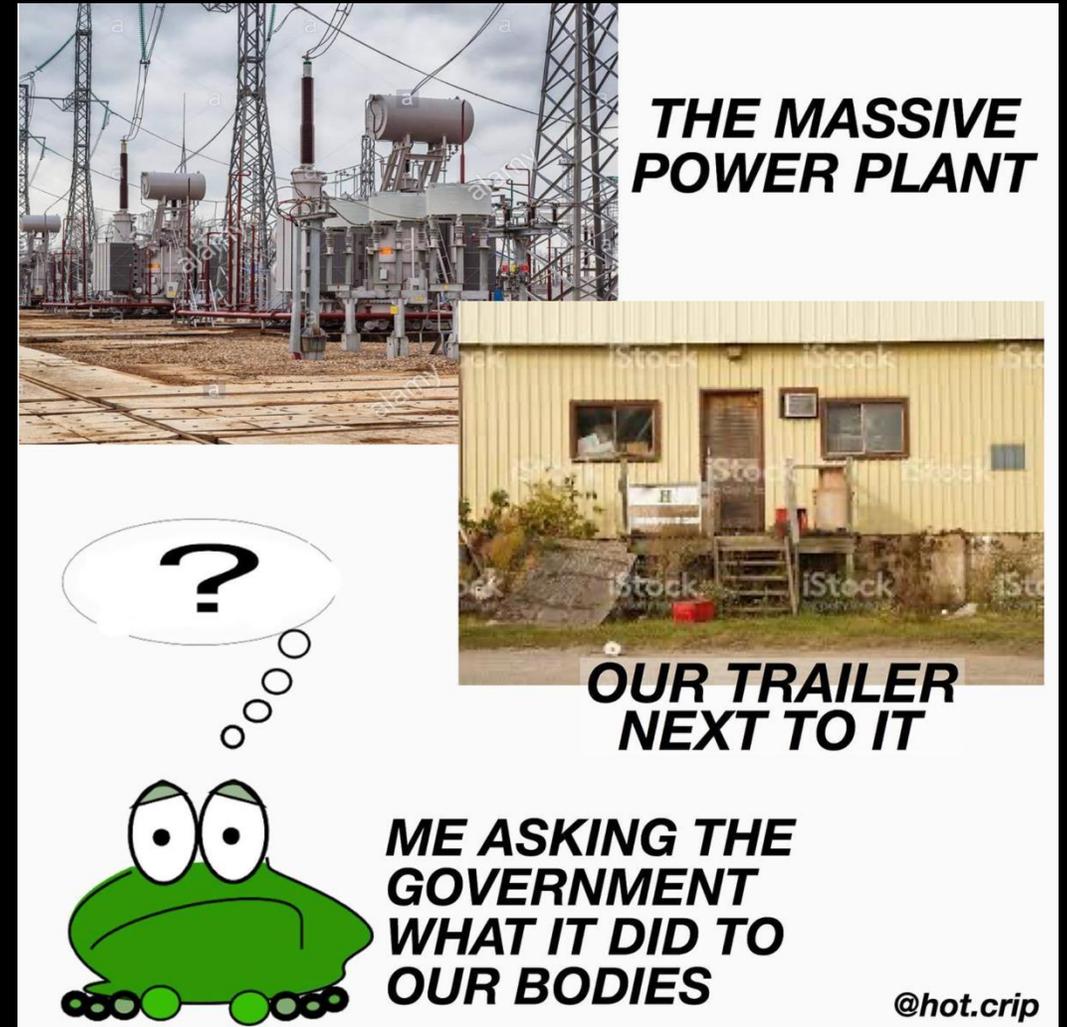
# Beyond Social Model

- Social Model was an important shift in thinking about disability.
- However, not all disability will be eliminated in the ideal social conditions (e.g. pain or cognitive impairment).
- Forecloses possibility of positive or generative experiences of disability.

# Disability Justice

Disability overlaps with other forms of oppression and injustice

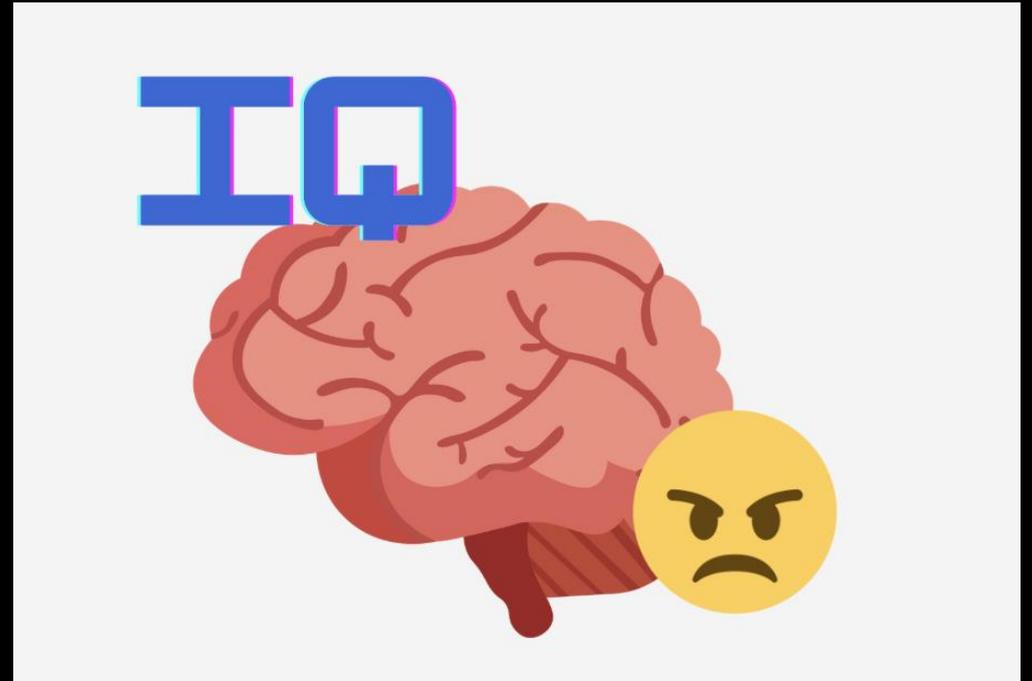
- Disability justice recognizes the intersecting legacies of white supremacy, colonial capitalism, gendered oppression and ableism.
- Emphasizes collective care and the “myth of independence”



Meme credit @hot.crip

# Disability Justice & Ableism

- Less focused on defining what disability *is* more what **ableism** does.
- **Ableism** is systemic discrimination against people with disabilities.



# Accessibility

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- How do we counter ableism? We increase **accessibility**.
- Accessibility = practice of making spaces, technologies, and services usable to people with disabilities.
- Access is a process not a destination

# What does this have to do with art and culture?

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- Art and cultural institutions are important environments where new ideas develop.
- As artist [Maria Chavez](#) says, artist's exercise the neuroplasticity of society
- Important place to challenge norms about disability.
- Creative way to experiment with accessibility.