

## GJ 504b Goes to earth

On Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in the afternoon, when the sun was setting so beautifully across the sky that all citizens of a town approximately 38 minutes northwest of Malibu, California were positioned with their heads turned towards the west and approximately 30 degrees up, a small ship approached from the east. The missile like object plummeted to the earth at such speed that only the luckiest of individuals could catch a glimpse. No such individuals existed in this circumstance.

The spacecraft, now nearing a Barbie-dream-house styled plot of land was directed to crash in the nearest body of water. Said body of water happened to be the Barbie-dream-house styled pool. Within the spacecraft existed a life, a space being. Their home planet GJ 504b had sent them to a location approximately 176 light years away to collect data, but due to an unexpected set of rouge asteroids, the GJ 504b-ian had to land on the nearest planet. The planet, as referred to by its inhabitants, was Earth. As they exited the now crashed and broken ship, GJ began to understand the circumstances at hand, and soon knew they had to conform to the costumes and practices Earth humans participated in.

To do so, GJ could perform as the perfect Earth woman until future plans were made. This act of belonging would consist of wearing various fabrics across their skin, called clothes in human terms, and placing a covering, called wigs on their head. Small stilts, called heels, would be worn on GJ's feet while interacting with Earth's inhabitants. Dresses, wigs, and heels would be the perfect solution to hiding within the Earth society.

GJ hid in the earth community for approximately three Earth weeks, decorating their body with these things, but in due time the action of covering became more and more difficult for GJ. They could not hide their bright pink skin, long limbs, and lack of five fingers. They stood taller than the real humans and they had yet to adequately understand the concept of the grocery store. While waiting to exit planet Earth, GJ's existence was consumed in the practice of hiding.

This project is inspired off the artist Juno Birch, a drag queen who defines her work because of her identity as a transgender individual and as a critical viewer of defined and expected gender.

She also is quite funny.

My tale is about an extra terrestrial being who has no choice but to enter into human society and feels awkward with the act of hiding within the bounds of society. Today more and more individuals are viewing the ways gender and gender expression is handled in society with a critical eye, analyzing the pressures men and woman in the past have been expected to look or act. This piece expresses the always awkward and sometimes funny struggle of fitting in.