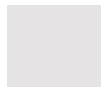
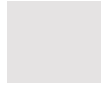


FORBES & FIFTH



# **COVER ART: *STICKY PIXELS***

## **JULIA BETTS**

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When first experimenting with scotch tape, I became interested in its ability to shift between transparency and opacity through layering. After documenting my trials, I noticed that when photographed, unevenly layered scotch tape squares create a convincing pixelated quality due to the flattening effect of photography. These discoveries accumulated into a process of carefully, repetitively applying scotch tape squares to my clothing, and then photographing the object upon a neutral, white background.

In my process, tape represents my skin and clothing is surrogate for my body. As I peel tape from the roll, the tape collects microscopic residue of my skin, which is quickly re-adhered to my “body.” The body is displaced and then immediately replaced. In the final translation, the body is displaced once more through photographic documentation. Through my processing, I create a tension between the body existing in real space and the body existing in digital space. The material square of tape and the illusion of the pixel pull at each other, thereby creating a strain between the body existing in digital or real space. The apparent duality and separation between absence and presence, real and virtual, material and immaterial, are distorted and lost.