Photo by Ruby

There was a point where I tried to get into crocheting and needle work, that sort of stuff like stereotypically feminine activities. And especially male figures in my life, like my uncle's kind of looked at me and be like, 'Oh, are you going gay or something.' like as an insult, dehumanizing... the fact that the activity I was doing was not masculine enough. And so that's something I kind of struggled with. And eventually, I landed on wood burning because wood burning has this weird middle ground where it was, manly enough, but still artistic that people didn't bug me about doing it. They weren't sitting there questioning who I was from it but I was still able to be artistic, show that artistic side of myself that a lot of the time was kind of targeted and made fun of by people in my life.

It kind of points out how much focus we put on gender, especially in people's activities. If someone coded as a woman goes dancing that's seen as normal. But if a person coded as a man goes dancing, they're seen more immediately as more feminine. And it's kind of this weird zone that people of all genders like to do all these activities. And even though some of the activities I like to do are stereotypical feminine, and I consider myself feminine and am a woman, that shouldn't have played a role at all. It's just activities and you cannot gender activities. And we as a society can do a lot to push away from gendering these activities and our expectations of what masculinity or femininity are and allow people to just be people regardless of gender.

*Ruby*