

# ARTIST STATEMENT:

## MY HANDS

**I AM TJ BLAKE, ARTISTRY AND MY ROAD TO ART IS ONE WHERE A CROSSROAD OF ART AS HEALING ENTERED MY WORLD. MY ROADS' JOURNEY TOOK AN UNEXPECTED TURN.**

Traveling has always been one of my passions and my mainstays. I have visited six of our seven continents, with Africa being one of my most profound experiences. I was first a Massage Therapist before becoming a different type of artist. I traveled to Southern Africa and used massage to serve women and children living with HIV and AIDS. As a Massage Therapist, my hands have been used to aid in comforting much like art, colors, and imagination now create vibrancy through the artist's hand.

Art came to me by way of me needing to fill a void caused by sustaining an injury while training for a marathon. Where my soul was consumed with toning, preparing, and conditioning.....my injury required a new focus...that of healing. And so TJ Blake artistry rose.

A renewed passion in life, an extension of working with my hands as a Massage Therapist, I now work with canvass, using primarily acrylic paints , resin and someday oils. I'd rather paint than eat, as I am ever anxious to create my next masterpiece!