

ARTIST STATEMENT

I guess you can say I have always been an artist, but that aspect of who I am wasn't cultivated until later on in life. Colors, patterns and fabric designs would take me into uncharted territories and often times, became the foundation and backdrop to a portrait idea I still carry with me to this day. I've always been interested in portrait photography and hyper realistic art, so merging these two concepts with my artwork was inevitable.

My paintings are a combination of mixed media incorporating acrylic & oil paints as well as paper collage, assemblage art, LED lighting and oversized shadow boxes. Text is often used in the form of poetry and quotes created to tell the overall story of the piece. When people reflect on my work, I want them to understand the written component without having to wonder what I am thinking. A unique aspect of my work would be the use of myself and my family as the focus of the piece. It can be very humbling and transparent to bear it all in words and personal intimate experiences. I believe painting of "Self" is very healing in a way.

My aesthetic is about merging my whimsical and realistic style to tell my story and the stories of others. The ability to do this has been extremely therapeutic to me and those who I have the privilege of painting. I am drawn to tell the story of people's personal struggles, successes, and finding ways to address the social issues many face on a daily basis. I am most impacted by young people, because they have, at times, been overlooked by society and have fallen victim to the unrealistic expectations fueled by social media, parents, teachers and peers regarding their bodies, self-image, identity and purpose.

I believe our society has become so desensitized to the fact there are young people all around us hurting and looking for an answers. My life goal is to use my artwork to help extinguish these lies and misconceptions and ignite a sense of self-worth and purpose, no one can ever take away. I want to find ways to reach out to the youth and begin to have the important conversations, conversations to help guide them into their futures.

My hope is my art work will be a portal to help our youth to help build self-esteem and pride in who they are, their heritage and ancestral legacy. When they walk into a gallery, I want them to see people who look like them, everyday people. My hope is to provoke our youth to be more engaged and interested in artwork, to start to have the conversations which also bring healing. I believe this can happen when they see people on the walls who look like them and who have a story very similar to their own.

The hope and intended purpose of my work is to bring healing to those who are hurting, to effect social change in our communities and to bring awareness to our society that there is a generation of youth being underrepresented and their voices need to be heard as well.

This is for the flower the gardener overlooked!

Sanah Brown-Bowers

