

Artist Statement



My artistic odyssey commenced over 15 years ago, a journey born from my profound fascination with portrait photography and realistic artwork. The genesis of this passion found its nurturing ground within the hallowed confines of the photography section at Barnes and Noble. It was there that I found solace and inspiration, immersing myself in the captivating works of visionaries like Gordon Parks and Cindy Sherman.

Early on, my artistic inclination naturally led me towards the convergence of photography and painting. Colors, patterns, and fabric designs became not just elements but integral facets of my creative process, often forming the bedrock and canvas for my evolving portrait ideas.

Family became my initial and enduring subject, with a particular focus on portraying the unfolding tapestry of my daughter's journey from childhood to adulthood. As time progressed, the scope of my artistic lens expanded to encompass the diverse narratives of my close family members. The collective stories, I realized, were threads intricately woven into the broader fabric of familial and cultural history, echoing back through millennia.

The trajectory of my artistic practice has been one of evolution, embracing a multitude of mediums ranging from acrylic, oil, and spray paints to mixed media, paper collage, typography, assemblage art, LED lighting, film, video, and sound. These diverse elements coalesce into what I term "family altars"—immersive sanctuaries designed to prompt contemplation and reflection in the viewer.

The altars, symbolic spaces of ancestral remembrance and honor, embody my steadfast belief in the significance of every individual story. Text, whether presented subtly in poetry or boldly in handwritten quotes, serves as a narrative thread that invites viewers to delve into their own reservoirs of childhood memories.

Beyond the personal narrative, my work emerges as a poignant conversation with Black history. Positioned as a portal, my art seeks to transcend the visual, inviting viewers to encounter not only the artist but also a transformative experience. The infusion of vibrant colors, harmonized with sensory elements like text, song, smell, sight, and vibration, serves a dual purpose—to evoke joy and uplift the soul.

In a deliberate departure from stereotypical depictions of African Americans mired in political or historical contexts, my artistic endeavor strives to showcase an alternative narrative—one steeped in Black joy, empowerment, unity, and the profound respect accorded to elders. Through my paintings, I aspire to infuse hope and foster a sense of togetherness within communities.

This ongoing artistic odyssey is a testament to my commitment to exploring and portraying the multifaceted dimensions of the Black experience. My work stands not only as a personal expression but also as an invitation for viewers to engage with the artist, delve into shared stories, and depart with a renewed sense of joy and connection.

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