

Turning trash to Treasure

The first time I experienced installation art was walking through The Gates of Central Park by Christo and Jean-Claud when I was in high school.

Simple pieces of fabric draped over 23 miles of pathways all throughout Central Park. The way the environment changed completely, yet- only with a simple alteration, sheets of fabric. This got me curious about what kind of impact I could have on my environment with my work. For a long time leading up to and following this I felt like things were just happening to me, that I was dealt an easy hand, and that I was just really good at going with the flow when I got a bad deal. As I got older and was set out into the world on my own, this turned into feeling like a lack of control. Walking through those gates I realized the one thing that I always had control over was what I could create and put out into the world.



My biggest motivators to create are the moments when I am feeling that lack of control. Whenever I start feeling like things are just happening to me and my heads starting to go under water, I remember walking through those gates, and better yet, all the new environments and experiences I have created myself. Gigantic t-shirt quilt- tent turned churches, walls of streams of consciousness, closets of comforts that were no longer comfortable, assemblages of obsessive collections, and mixed media collages that aid in reducing, reusing and recycling. What started as a reach for control over my inside world, has evolved into working towards creating a better outside world for myself and anybody who cares to join me. I am not inspired by any one material in particular, but instead inspired by the possibilities of all the commonplace materials around me every day.

Samuel Adoquei says the following about the success of an artist. “The success of an artist depends on the artist knowing himself, his endurance, his budget and his time, where he is and where he wants to go.” (Adoquei, 2010) When I think about how these words apply to me and my artwork I am confident that I know where I want to go. Taking the “trash” of my world and turning it into something attractive and interesting. Turning the mess that’s both inside of us, and all around us, into something beautiful and meaningful.



“21st Century Church of Self Help”

2014

Mixed media/ found Object installation