

# *Artist Statement*

My unconventional mixed-media visual work incorporates classic portraiture and classical references with new-age hybrid art image creation. I use a varied method of combining beautiful hand drawings, strong digital image making, screen-printing and ink transfers. I bring this together with skilled acrylic and aerosol painting on wood and other canvases.

In the 21st century everything is affected by digital media and the Internet. Most works of art created today will be seen on digital devices more times than in person. I create art to encourage interactions—physically and digitally.

My work aims to ask questions regarding equality, immigration and what it means to be Black in Canada. We are navigating through a very important time, our country's demographics are changing. It is important that we critically chart our current political, social, and economic landscapes. I create art to document this with compositions brimming with references to media, popular culture, music, and art history. The work aims to add beauty to the world while invoking the unending social responsibility to capture thought. I aim to bring pride to Black culture in Canada, respect to different cultures and people of diverse backgrounds. As Indigenous people, Black people, and people of colour we are not accustomed to seeing nuanced reflections of ourselves in contemporary visual culture. I create work featuring many of these faces, and issues we as minorities encounter, in an attempt to be accurately represented in popular contemporary culture.

I like happy mistakes in art, such as ink bleeds. As well as art work affected by age, sun, rain and natural elements, which creates areas that are worn away or lifted. I think some mistakes, simplicity and chance are beautiful fundamentals of creating.

I am truly captivated by the development process of taking a simple idea from nothing and watching it grow into a completed project that can not only be seen, but also touched, interpreted and enjoyed by the viewer. Images allow me to share an idea or evoke an emotional response almost instantly. I channel this emotion and energy into creating, inspiring new work and exploring new ideas.

Lives and works in Toronto.

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