

Artist Statement

My name is Bryce Batts. As a middle-class black man, I have struggled with identity my entire life. I found myself being too smart, too dark, too introverted for what the stereotypical black male should be. I found myself alone, as my presence created fear and intimidation. Amongst all of this, art provided me a safe space to be unapologetically me.

Inspired by Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, and Lee Friedlander, my work primarily consists of photography and collage art. These three used their respective platforms to give representation to marginalized groups of people. They also were able to provide an unmatched intimacy with their self-portraits. These ideas not only align with my artistic interests but also my life purpose.

My process is very organic and spontaneous. Each piece of mine is a byproduct of a dream or an experience of mine. My collage pieces are wild and provocative, emulating my stream of consciousness. For my photography I only use natural light and shadows. This brings a level of authenticity that the art world has been struggling to find.

Topics showcased in my pieces include self-expression, pop-culture, relationships, and politics. These are topics that all walks of life can relate to. These are topics that many artists are afraid to tackle; in fear of rocking the boat.

My ultimate goal is to bring representation and authenticity to the art world. I want to see diverse and organic people being showcased at galleries. I specifically want people of color to be seen as three dimensional. Ultimately, to have a seat at the table. The table that includes residencies, fellowships, and the opportunity to purchase fine art, without prejudice.