



Bio:

Heather Williams was born in St. Croix US Virgin Islands and raised in Brooklyn , NY. She was always interested in becoming an artist but her parents who were first generation from Trinidad and Grenada encouraged her to find a job. She followed their advice and studied finance in undergrad but ultimately changed careers to become an Art Therapist. She worked with the domestic violence population for over ten years providing group and individual therapy. Later, she became a mother and a certified Montessori Primary teacher. After several years of teaching she resigned and returned to grad school, this time to fulfill her dream of focusing on her art.

Heather earned a Masters in Fine Art from the School of Visual Arts in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. She has been awarded the Paula Rhodes memorial award for exceptional achievement in MFA Art Practice. Her short film, *Safe Passage* was awarded honorable mention at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago. She has also been awarded residencies at EILEEN S. KAMINSKY FAMILY FOUNDATION (ESKFF) at Mana Contemporary, ArtCrawl Harlem at Governors Island, NY and a Sustainable Arts Fellowship at Gallery Aferro, NJ. She has exhibited in many group exhibitions including *Peel off the Surface*, Tribeca Loft, and solo shows *Damage and Repair* at Akwaaba Gallery and *Protective Spirits* at The Bridge Art Gallery. Her sculptures and abstract paintings are in many private collections.

Artist Statement

My art is a love letter to the quiet and intrinsically powerful Black woman. It includes abstract paintings, sculpture and film. It's my way to push myself out into the world and also represent for others like me. My work explores dualities, spiritual legacy and my concerns for our environment and the well-being of Black people.

In the series of paintings, Damage and Repair, each painting incorporates tagging, tearing, collaging and the layering of paper and found objects on deeply saturated canvas. The effect is a labyrinth of texture, movement and meaning.

My Witness sculptures are observers of time, a reminder of a long and proud African ancestral lineage and all that's been lost and gained. They remind us that we are not alone but watched over, cared for and protected. This is a growing part of my practice with approximately fifty Witnesses created thus far.

My on-going film project, "Safe Passage", features my son over time and my contemplation on how to protect him. It asks the question, Is there a safe passage for the Black body? This project was initiated during the height of the Pandemic shutdown and Black Lives Matter Movement protests in 2020. Where are we two years later?