



Resources

The Intersectionality of Black Women in the Civil Rights Journey

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I am Madelyn McClarey, a native of Miami, Florida, and a two-time graduate of Florida A&M University. In 2019 I obtained my Bachelor of English Degree and immediately after my master's degree in applied social sciences-history in 2020. Art has always been a part of my life in some way. Early on in my professional career, I became a professional makeup artist, and this increased my love for color and texture. In 2007 while working for the Broward County School Board, children's art became an integral part of my teaching signature. After incorporating art successfully into lesson planning, the next phase of art inclusion was at Freedom Schools, in which I served as a servant leader intern through AmeriCorps. For me, art is freedom in its purest form. Whatever one creates is exactly like it was meant to be. The art that I create today is a culmination of all the places I have been to and the events I have seen. I hope that everyone who experiences my work will know that there is a distinct meaning to each piece. History and equity are at the forefront of each design.

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What Remains-'21

My process for this artwork involved thinking back on the women in my family. My grandmother was a scholar, a teacher, and a landowning farmer. As the protests of the past blazed forward in our modern world, I thought about her contributions to North Carolina. She (Hattie) served her community, taught her children to read, voted for equality, and taught her last grandchild (me) about my indigenous roots. My process for this painting was deeply rooted in honoring her legacy.



HBCU Historians-'22

For this particular painting, my method was based on the emotions of my last lunch date before the world shut down. My graduate historian cohort met to discuss what might come next, we had been warned about the pandemic yet decided to choose joy before the storm. My goal was to focus on our tenacity, intelligence, and freedom before the unknown. This painting reflects color, texture, and movement; it represents living emotion even in stillness.



High Tea-'22

High Tea is a loving nod to my mother's sisters. They are North Carolina Natives and educators. My process explored the intelligent struggle of African American women and their descendants. In creating this artwork, my deeply rooted understanding of what it means to protect one's mind is reflected in the women's hats. The vibrant colors used represent the African influence throughout Black cultures. The positionality of the women's heads shows their distinct ability to stand strong, each in their own direction but bonded on occasion. High tea elevates the historical narrative of Black women. It sets the tone for the journey ahead while using the struggle of the past as a reference for justice. Creating this artwork in this modern time of racial tensions in America solidifies why we all must make time for art.



Madelyn McClarey is a history instructor at the University of Memphis. McClarey's art is reflective of family members who are North Carolina natives. It also reflects the city of her birth, Miami, Florida where she learned the importance of culture, and Black representation. Her hope is that everyone can see the humanity in her freedom journey.

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