

Traci Wright Martin

Artist Statement:

Contemporary realism is at the heart of my work, featuring portraiture and the figure as primary subject matter. With my first love being charcoal, a continuous evolution of technique and style has brought colorful pastels, papers, and paint into the finished product, creating a unique identity for my body of work. The care and exploration that drive mixed media provides me with a fulfilling creative experience. Each design element is carefully chosen to represent part of a larger focused theme, always with a nod to shared aspects of the human condition. My experience as a woman artist informs my process, and I am engaged in an ongoing conversation on the meaning of identity and traditional cultural categories with my viewer; sometimes subtle, sometimes overt. Each series I create explores, in its own way, the struggles of representation: from blurred lines on gender roles and stereotypes, to the discussion of socio-economic stigmas, systems of faith, and experiences with mental health. These themes within the overall narrative are further reinforced visually through the symbolic use of mixed media.