

Monique Shanta'u Worthy
Artist Bio

Monique (Meaux) Worthy is a freelance multimedia artist working in Seattle. Drawing on her diverse cultural background, Monique combines an eclectic variety of media to create meaningful artworks.

Through acrylics on canvas, resin, ceramic, and poetry, Monique manipulates the textures, colors, and motifs to express the multi-faceted narratives of culture and identity. Monique's art is a way to ask questions, explore, celebrate, and recognize that there is not one single view of the world. Working both independently and collaboratively, she seeks to unite disparate elements and create pieces that are commanding and thought-provoking.

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WORHTY













Concept Breakdown

My connection with art was recently severed. Where I found comfort and release, I saw regret and misunderstanding. It had been several months that I struggled, trying to fight to regain that passion that once brought my soul so much joy. When this opportunity was presented to me, I was inspired. An emotion I haven't felt in months. I knew the direction and ideas washed over me like they had been dying to escape through my creative blockage. Whether I obtain this opportunity or not I am thankful for it returning the love for my craft.

My concept for this art piece is derived from the idea of what our ancestors came from, what they must overcome, and paying homage to the roads they paved. Without them, the milestones and innovative success stories began on the labor and "roots" of our mothers and fathers before us.

I would title this concept "Rooted". I wanted to create an image of interlocking hair as a symbol of strength. Black hair is such a controversial, versatile, dynamic aspect of black culture. I was instantly brought to the idea of how slaves would use braids to create maps as a path to freedom. The winding and path crossing of the braids and dreads mimic that of a map, or timeline. Depicting where we started and how far we have come. The "roots" were planted by those before so that we could walk these paths and make these change. Our ancestors would dream of us the way we are today. Not my own words, they crawled so that we could walk.

In the gaps of interlocking hair, I would like to depict the milestones and pivotal moments of that brought the Central District to its historical glory for the black community. Pulling inspiration from *"Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era"*, I want to express all the major moments that contributed to the building and structure of the black community in the Central District through this era.

I was told that the medium most used would be metal or steel. My imagining was that the dreads and the braid would be formed in a cage like manner around the pillar. In the space that the hair interlocks, painting, and images would be placed in each section that were focal to this era in time, accompanied by small plaques with dates and brief descriptions of what the image is expressing. I want to give a feel of a timeline but also a sense of growth and guidance.



Panels with
Painted or
Printed images
of milestones

Street signs
with
description
of Milestones

MLK and

Hair
made of
metal with
a cage
effect
around the
pillar
an images

