

Short Artist Statement

Kadazia Allen-Perry

I was diagnosed with a terminal illness called cystic fibrosis at 18 months old. Through 25 years of doctors' appointments, medicines, breathing treatments, hospital exasperations, familial abandonment, anxiety, depression, a suicide attempt, sexual assault, of finding a way to breathe at 16% lung function... Creativity has kept a hold on me. When I woke up from a double lung transplant on April 15, 2019, I was finally able to fully accept its embrace. I went from being unable to sit up at my art desk for more than thirty minutes to sculpting fifty unicorn pins in one sitting.

Aside from being disabled, I am also queer, a non-binary womxn, and Black. All of the intersections I occupy have been historically and intentionally stripped of their humanity and expected to be content with this. I never accepted these terms and conditions. Instead, through creating art, I saw the abundance of possibilities that lie within and beyond these intersections I occupy. I am a multi-media artist because I don't see just one possibility, one future, or one dream for myself. I work across mediums to find the stories I want to tell and how they would like to be told.

My art aspires to illustrate, design, print, paint, sculpt, write and film marginalized folks into realities we've never been privy to. Into stories that have never been told about us. Into futures that have never included us. My art aspires to make the dreams of the most vulnerable possible... to make us possible.