

Series 1: Self-Portraits

Carissa Guthrie

The current body of work is the beginning of a series of self-portraits. This is a self-reflective piece that focuses on my negative self-image. The works are personal and emotionally provocative.

All three of the figures in the portrait have their eyes covered as a way of representing the way I was sheltered by those older than me. By “protecting” me from the harsh realities of the world, they instead blinded me to them, leaving me vulnerable and unequipped to deal with them.

Although I am only presenting the first of this series I would like to explain the others that will eventually accompany this piece.

The second of the three portraits remove the uppermost set of hands, thus exposing the oldest version of myself to the verisimilitude of the world I live in. With my shield taken away, I am left to deal with my fragility and the realization that I am not as strong as I thought I was.

The final of the three portraits represents my recent feelings of fear and weakness. This portrait is a visual representation of me pulling back from friends and family, of me hiding myself and feeling unworthy and ashamed. These emotions are represented visually by my three selves covering their own faces.

I am working on this series as a way of forcing myself to recognize these feelings for what they are and to push past them. I am hopeful that these portraits will aid in me overcoming these negative thoughts and feelings about myself.

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Series 2: Perception portraits

This series is focused on presenting imagery of people I care about and how they appear to me. The portraits will hopefully carry a similar impact to actually being with the person. I want to visually articulate how that person makes me feel when I am with them.