

Angel L. Reese

With my work, I hope to highlight sensitive subjects in a respectful manner through figurative paintings. These subjects consist of murder victims, social injustices, sexual assault, and the idea of body dysmorphia with the overall theme of mortality. The importance of the subjects fluctuates within today's society and will continue to do so until humans can come together and fix these issues. Behind each of my artworks is hidden content, which viewers see through summaries underneath the titles. I believe in my responsibility to awaken and focus attention on these subjects so that the audience will leave with a higher sense of compassion. The intent is to make my audience conscious of how this world is unkind, unfair, and not always beautiful. I hope that this awakening of consciousness will lead to self-reflection, so that individuals can change and be more aware of their impact on others.

This work may come off as harsh and subjectively negative; however, this is how I respond to the world. I did not grow up in a sheltering world full of sunshine and daisies; my world was (and sometimes still is) full of harsh words, broken promises, violence, along with financial and social poverty. In the wise words of Kasimir Malevich, "Art requires truth, not sincerity," (*From Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism: The New Painterly Realism, 1915*) and these works of art are my truth. Much like Meta Warrick Fuller and Theodore Gericault, my work is inspired by regular people that have malleable content to send a message to the viewer. I have seen that change must happen, and that change must start with me, me being able to project my internalization of this world to expose it to others. I hope and wish that this exposure will challenge my audience so that they use their brief lives more constructively and consciously, so that this perishing world can be changed. As mortality is something all humans have in common, and since we don't have forever, our interactions and impacts that we have on others are made so much more important. Becoming more sensitive to one another, more thankful for our lives and the others around us is one of the goals I have. As to fully value our lives we must be less negative within and outside of ourselves. My other goal is to be sensational since sympathy, empathy, and compassion for others are ways to change the world.