

My work is about social-isms and how black bodies maneuver, function and exist in white spaces. Being black and how that skin is not only viewed, but represented in both the present and historical context. For me, being black and a woman are two things that very much influence how I see the world and how my work is seen. I consider the work I do to be activist oriented, but I do not expect it to fix the problem. However, if my work brings about political or social change, then I welcome it. I don't expect my work to change the world, but as *Titus Kaphar* said, "shift your focus." I aim to shift that focus to other ideas and realities of the past and present, and inequitable existences. My art serves as the voice of my ancestors and those speaking through me. I feel it is my responsibility to tell the stories of the diaspora. For so long, the narrative has been dictated by the oppressor and the oppressed can contradict that narrative. I'm here to change the narrative.

This is my duty as a maker, activist, shit-starter, and HUMAN.

*"I choose to reflect the times and situations in which I find myself. That is my duty. And at this crucial time in our lives, when everything is so desperate, when every day is a matter of survival. I don't think you can help but be involved." – Nina Simone*