

My Hair Speaks Volumes

Solo Exhibition by Amber Nicole



| Artist Statement

I delve deep into the connection between Black women and the experience of caring for our natural hair. From my earliest memories of struggling with self-esteem due to societal pressures and childhood teasing, to proudly embracing my natural locs, my art is a testament to the transformative power of self-love and acceptance.

My work serves as a visual narrative, echoing the stories of countless Black women who navigate the complexities of identity, beauty, and self-worth. Through vibrant hues, intricate textures, and creative combinations, I aim to challenge conventional norms and redefine the narrative surrounding Black hair.

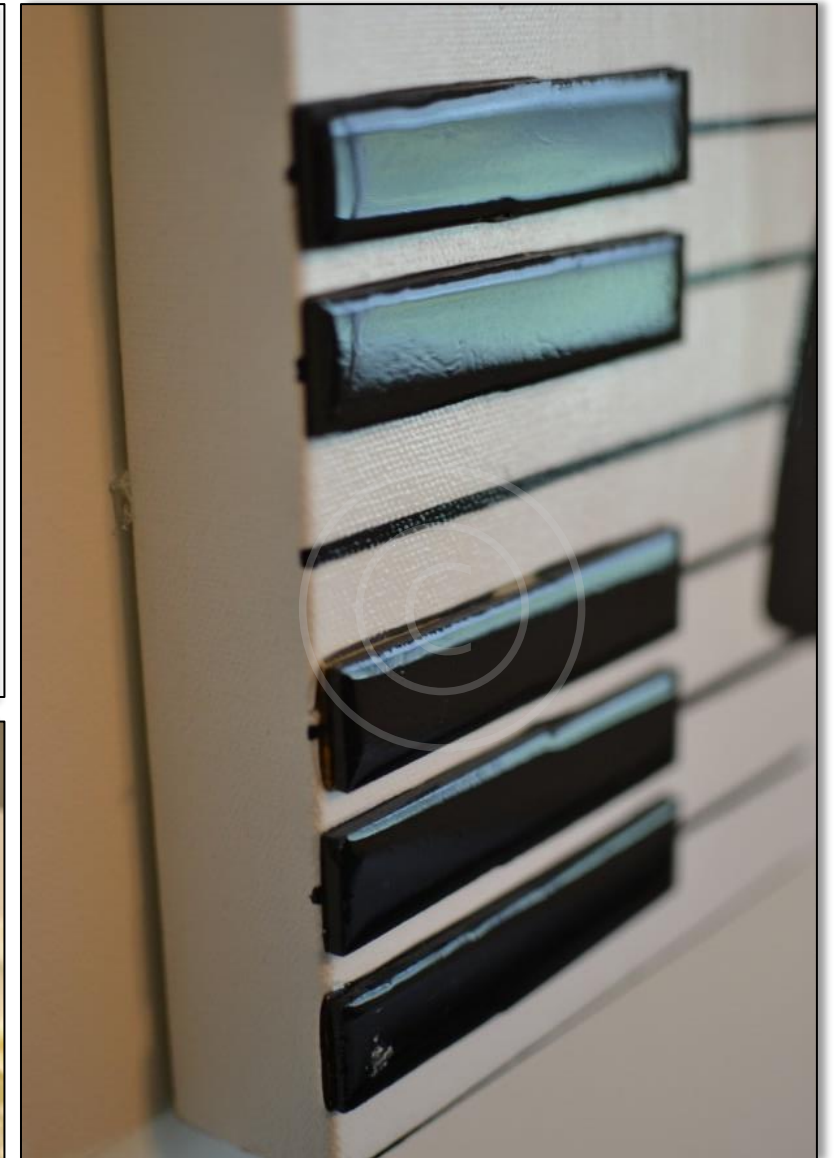
Each piece is a celebration of resilience and empowerment, a reflection of my own journey towards self-acceptance and pride. By incorporating unusual materials that resonate with my personal passions and interests, I invite viewers to engage with my art on a sensory level, igniting conversations and sparking moments of introspection.

Ultimately, my art is a call to action—a call for Black women everywhere to embrace their natural beauty unapologetically, to reclaim our narratives, and to stand tall in our authenticity. Through my work, I strive to uplift, inspire, and empower, fostering a world where Black hair is not only accepted but celebrated as a symbol of strength, resilience, and unyielding beauty.

Title: Keyz
Medium: Mixed media acrylic on canvas;
Vinyl records (45s), artificial floral arrangement, resin
Dimensions: 24 x 36 inches

Concept/Inspiration

There are so many parallels between hair, music, and flowers. When I think about hair, I genuinely think of a bouquet of flowers and the arrangement process. You must be delicate in your approach. Flowers are graceful; they move with ease and can really transform a room with an explosion of colors and styles. I see black hair in the same way. It stands out, it is graceful, beautiful, and has so many variations to it, so much that no two styles are exactly alike - the same as a bouquet. Music and hair have a similar connection as well. Musicians are meticulous about how they create the perfect sound. The beat has to be well-thought, the lyrical keys have to complement the instruments in the background, and it has to strike the listener on a deeper level sonically. Again, I see hair the same way. When women select a hairstyle, they do it with a vision in mind. It has to flow, it must make a statement, and ultimately it has to look good! Classic records take patience and creativity to create, and black hair is just the same.



Title: Joanne's Mix
Medium: Mixed media neon-UV acrylic on canvas
Vinyl records (45s), on vinyl silhouette
Dimensions: 30 x 40 inches

Concept/Inspiration

I believe that people enter your life for a reason. I worked for a local company here in Atlanta and had the privilege of working for an amazing woman. At that time, not too many people knew much about me, but she took the time to get to know me. She let me have vent sessions with her about graduate school, dating, and even gave me encouragement about my path in life.

This outspoken, funny, intelligent, light-hearted, and caring woman who believed in me as a person and me as an artist, passed away from breast cancer. I still don't believe it as I say that. She was a fighter that couldn't be knocked down, and as she rests in peace, I still think of her that way. I thank her so much for believing in me.



Title: Fade
Medium: Mixed media acrylic on canvas
Preserved moss on vinyl silhouette
Dimensions: 36 x 48 inches

Concept/Inspiration

Transition to Transformation. The most common haircut for Black men with low to medium hair is a fade. It adds depth to the cut no matter the length. A tedious technique for a barber to master but once done and executed, a masterpiece. The transition to transformation derives from the growing pains life puts us through as Black men. There is a never-ending cycle of obstacles for us to overcome to reach success. We must constantly refine ourselves, acquire knowledge and remain disciplined to create the life we desire. In doing so our “transition” puts us through life’s challenges until we “transform” to meet the challenge and emerge successful. Once our new growth comes in, the process of the “fade” begins again. Transitioning to a new transformation.” - D. Howell



Title:

Frequency

Medium:

Mixed media neon-UV acrylic on canvas

CDs & artificial floral arrangement, neon accent colors on vinyl silhouette

Dimensions:

36 x 48 inches



Title: When Life Gives
Medium: Mixed media acrylic on canvas
Florals & artificial fruit on vinyl silhouette
Dimensions: 36 x 48 inches

Concept/Inspiration:

Life has made sure to throw an entire fields-worth of fruit at me. Not only did life throw lemons - it also threw limes, bitter oranges and even a grapefruit or two. I went through difficult periods post COVID. There were days where I felt like I had everything under control, and then more days where I struggled to realize my purpose and my worth as a person, an entrepreneur, a family member and even as a friend. I questioned all of my decisions and started to wake up thinking "I wonder what's going to go wrong today." After a few mental breakdowns, I found myself finding peace in reading. I share this piece with you as a reminder. No matter what your journey may be, remember that you are meant for the blessings that are waiting for you. So, when life gives you fruit, make a fruit cocktail and keep it pushing. "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade"

