

April Fitzpatrick is a board certified art therapist, mixed media visual artist, and CCO of Pineapples with Purpose, LLC, a mental health platform that introduces art therapy to communities impacted by race-based traumatic stress. Her artistry marries contemporary abstraction with experimental narrative to produce paintings and collages that capture the layered realities of Blackness, racial trauma, and oppression. Fitzpatrick's principle purpose is helping individuals uncover, assess, and externalize challenges that affect their overall wellbeing.

Fitzpatrick's current project, *A Symbolic Transformation*, explores the use of art, art therapy and symbolism as a working model to reduce mental health stigma, increase accessibility, and decolonize multicultural counseling practices that continue to impact Black communities. Her work has been featured in the Tallahassee Democrat, Canvas Rebel, Artful Infrastructure, Black Superwoman Chronicles, ArtPlace America, Black Minds Mag: Issue 2 <https://gumroad.com/l/klQnt>, Art Seen: The Curator's Salon Magazine <https://www.amazon.com/Art-Seen-Curators-Salon-Magazine/dp/B094LCQD4H>, and ART4EQUALITY x LIFE, LIBERTY, PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS Exhibition Catalog. April has exhibited art pieces in over 10 cities with one being a group exhibition in Tribeca, New York which was featured in Forbes magazine. Her art in public places has been showcased on a bus station ad in Miami, FL and two traffic control boxes in Tallahassee, FL.

April's most recent accomplishments include being Arts in Medicine Fellow (AIM), and the city appointed practicing artist for the Council on Cultural and Arts Board of Directors (COCA). While managing various roles, April continues to serve as supervisor for an expressive art therapies program in Tallahassee, FL and is committed to using art to create a sense of place for members of the local community. April believes that in order to turn pain into purpose, you must "Make Room for Your Crown!"