

“The Pineapple Metaphor: *Expanding the Narrative*” is a collection of paintings that encompass my sensibilities of perceiving and digesting my life and the world around me. My cultural roots have imposed a powerful influence on my art process. My work is a conversation between myself and place, using art as a paradoxical intervention to address trauma at its core. Integrating the pineapple’s own growth and journey as a guiding metaphor, I use the fruit to reflect and digest cultural history, personal narratives, and community as it relates to sustaining mental and emotional wellness.

My work weaves historical narratives found across Black psychology, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and Souls Grown Deep, welcoming a critical view of one’s *Lebenswelt* (life-world) impacted by direct and indirect societal ills with specific attention to racial trauma. I fuse elements of abstract realism using detailed, edgy, and thought-provoking symbolism to create space for suppressed memories. Balance is the goal, but there’s no rush. The styles of my work embrace chaos, emptiness, fragments, and rigidness as I piece back together what has been breached layer by layer. The intense and vibrant colors call on the audience to be seen and heard with intent to inspire individuals to create or at least feel. My style is constantly changing to mirror that of life as each day brings new experiences.

The pineapple is central to my work. It is a conversation starter into how we address trauma within the black community. I repurpose the pineapple using its origin and journey to reclaim purpose, passion, and pursuit. Challenging old perspectives, the fruit’s vibrancy urges viewers to create a new memory, that of the pineapple, a positive memory not bound by trauma. I expect my audience to see my use of symbolism as a way to capture a snapshot of their own individual trauma and marry it with healing. Through my vision and use of the pineapple, I imagine getting to the “core” and my artwork is the bridge that leads to that first step.