Department of City Planning

Public Art & Civic Design Division
Guest Artist: Brianna Mims
Brianna Mims

My current artistic practice is a product of profuse discarding and reclaiming. As I aim to make honest work, I’ve had to rediscover my own cultural and historical legacy. Over the past two years, this knowledge has fortified me with a new sense of empowerment. And through my art practice I have found my own context.

In my practice, I rely on a variety of mediums to allow for full self-expression. This choice of medium reflects my relationship to the themes of my work. The themes that occupy my regular ruminations allow for more experimentation. By using mediums to challenge myself I often find a path out of those thought cycles. In works like Wire Bra, the rigidity of the medium facilitated a letting of internalized hatred. When I’m working with more subconscious themes, I need to find refuge in the medium until the themes present themselves. Currently working with ideas of utopia and the erotic, I find myself seeking comfort in familiar mediums.

When there’s clay in my hands, I can get through anything. As I make something tangible of my experiences, I use literature and psych research to contextualize the work. In pieces like Fractured Identity, the medium challenged me to make my purpose concise. The painting represents a digestion of theory. The process exposed my own fragmenting of self as a means of survival. As I work to contextualize my own survival through art, I’ve found space to live. Space for my intuition to guide me and ground my practice. My work creates space for community and future selves.
Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning establishes and sustains an orderly and consistent approach to land use in the City of Pittsburgh that incorporates sustainability, city design, resilience, equity and opportunity in its’ work.

The overriding goal is to sustain and enhance a thriving city of neighborhoods for the people who live, work, learn and visit here.
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Strategic Planning
Zoning & Development Review
Sustainability & Resilience
Public Art & Civic Design
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Promotes and ensures high-quality public art and civic design in order to sustain and enhance meaningful, memorable and enjoyable experiences. Develops and supports the inclusion of art and programming that reflect the city's history, diversity, and culture.

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Art Commission
Conservation & Preservation
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New Projects & Programs

Permanent Artworks
Integrated Design
Temporary Programs
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Permanent Artworks
- Integrated Design
- Temporary Programs

Percent For Art
Grant Funded Partnership
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Permanent Artworks
Integrated Design
Temporary Programs

Percent For Art
Private Development
Master Planning
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Permanent Artworks
Integrated Design
Temporary Interventions

Storytelling
Community
Programmed