




Inspirative

By: Jalondra Townsend




First Thesis Statement

- Through painting, drawing, and sculpture, I will address the beauty of African physicalities, discover and address the nuances between my heritage and American heritage, as well as distinctive cultural and societal issues that have constructed the black community.
- 



Second Thesis Statement

- Through ceramic sculpture, research and creative writing, I will explore histories of African people who were brought over on slave ships and forced to endure hardships simply because of the color of their skin.
- 



First Thesis Proposal

- Being uprooted from their homes and forced to America on slave ships has shaped the psyche of the African people in a way that still effects the black community to this day. African Americans have been treated like objects that have been so severely demeaned to the point that no one really knows the beauty and uniqueness of out many different cultures anymore. Things like traditions, clothing, folk tales, and histories of African cultures are topics that have always been deeply interesting to me, and I have always wanted to learn more about them.
- For my Senior Thesis Project, I will take a DNA test to find out the different percentages of African heritage that make up me. Once I figure out my heritage, I will explore it as much as possible then create four paintings and two drawings that show my audience the nuances between my culture and being born and raised in America.
- I will also address the beauty of physical features of African American women specifically. For as long as the African people have been in America, things like larger butts and fuller lips were considered ugly or “strong”. Now, however; women spend their life savings to make physical changes to their bodies’ so that they’ll be noticed as being “beautiful”. For this concept, I plan to create two sculptures of these physical features in their entirety.



Second Thesis Proposal

- I have always been extremely interested in the history of African people and the traumatic experiences they have had to endure simply due to the color of their skin. Being uprooted from their homes and forced to America on slave ships has shaped the psyche of the African people in a way that still effects the black community to this day. What interests me most is the determination and the courage it took for the African people to overcome any obstacle thrown at them while still managing to shine so bright.
- For my senior thesis project, I plan to create 8-10 Baroque style busts of fictional and non-fictional characters who have managed to come out on top despite every hardship they have had to withstand. There will be a mix of expressions spread amongst them. Some will so little to extreme emotion within their face depending on their backstory, others will be more reserved in ways typically seen in Baroque style sculpture. I am choosing to create them in a Baroque style to also speak on the notion of how this type of work with busts and sculptures in general within that time period very rarely if at all portrayed black people in the same way they did white people; even though black people were free in this area due to slavery being illegal. The busts will have a removable stand to help with installation. I also plan to incorporate clothing, jewelry and possibly hair.



Artist Bio

- ▶ Jalondra Townsend attended Springfield High School in her hometown where she became interested in art from taking art electives. Beginning college as a Nursing Major, Townsend felt more and more out of place with where she was leading her to change to BFA-Studio Art. Jalondra's approach to art is to look back and pay homage to the beauty within the black community and within African cultures while also learning new things herself. Being that African people have been so severely demeaned that no one knows the beauty and strength that they hold within.

Artist Statement

- ▶ **Inspirative** will explore histories of African people who were brought over on slave ships and forced to endure hardships simply because of the color of their skin. Using creative writing and research, Jalondra Townsend creates busts of African people based off of fictional and nonfictional stories that she has found or come up with. With this body of work, Jalondra wants to pay homage to a few of the many amazing African leaders who put their lives on the line and went out of their way to fight for the African people and those within the black community while also uplifting and inspiring those within the black community today to always make something out of nothing and to show the power and strength that the African human has to shine no matter what is thrown at them.

Jalondra Q. Townsend

Experience	Oct. 2014-May 2015	Care Management Group	Clarksville, TN
	Patient Care Representative		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Compile, process, and maintain EMR▪ Data entry, faxing, filing, scanning, uploading, printing, scheduling appointments▪ Assistance with general requests from physicians, nurse practitioners, and other office staff▪ Obtain complete and accurate demographic and insurance information for new patient intake		
	Oct. 2015-Apr. 2016	Journeys	Clarksville, TN
	Part-Time Sales Associate		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Customer Service▪ Loss Prevention▪ Cashier		
	Jun. 2016-Aug. 2016	The Youth Academy	Clarksville, TN
	Seasonal Teacher Assistant		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide excellent child care▪ Keep classroom neat and organized		
	Apr. 2018-Present	American Eagle Outfitters	Clarksville, TN
	Part-Time Sales Associate		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Customer Service▪ Loss Prevention		
	May 2018-July 2018	Upward Bound	Clarksville, TN
	Part-Time Drawing Teacher		
	Nov. 2018-Present	Walgreens	Clarksville, TN
	Customer Service Associate		

Education	2020	Austin Peay State University	Clarksville, TN
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Curriculum Vitae

Jalondra Q. Townsend

	Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts
	▪ Dean's List Fall 2017
	▪ Dean's List Fall 2018
	Graduated May 2020 - BFA, Studio Art
Awards	Delta Scholar Award 2015
	Feminist Art Exhibition May 2018-July 2018, Paducah, KY
	Pancakes & Booze Art Show November 2018, Atlanta, GA
Exhibitions	And Female (Online Exhibition) April 2020-June 2020, International
Internship	
Experience	Downtown Artist's Co-op June 2018-Present
Commissions	Public Commissions, Brunch and Expo



Original Proposal

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First Presentation



Project Proposal

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Thesis Statement

Through painting, drawing, and sculpture, I will address the beauty of African physicalities, discover and address the nuances between my heritage and American heritage, as well as distinctive cultural and societal issues that have constructed the black community.

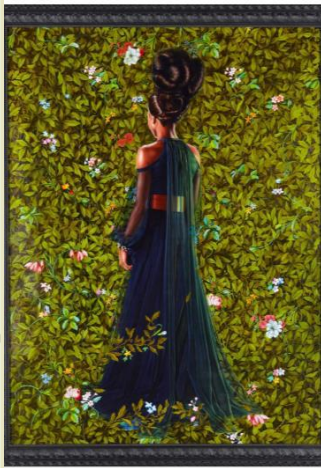
Artists



1.) Kehinde Wiley

Wiley's work inspires me because he uses his work to blur the boundaries between traditional and contemporary modes of representation of those in the black community.

First Presentation



Artists

1.) Kehinde Wiley

- Wiley's work also inspires me to experiment with backdrops. In his works, he places his subject in front of a patterned background then begins to sort of submerge them into their surroundings by painting the patterns over top of them.



Artists

2.) Charles White

- White adds an extreme amount of emotion and story telling in his work, which will help me in portraying certain emotions in some of my pieces.
- Charles also uses a very interesting color palate for both his subject and background. He uses the same colors for both which help add to the emotion in this piece.

Artists

3.) Barkley L. Hendricks

- Hendricks work inspires me because he works to portray black men in life-size empowered, classical depictions after noticing a lack of black presence in paintings of the Old Masters.
- Also, his work almost always consists of solid colored backgrounds forcing the viewer to focus in on the subject matter and the story behind his paintings which I plan to experiment with.

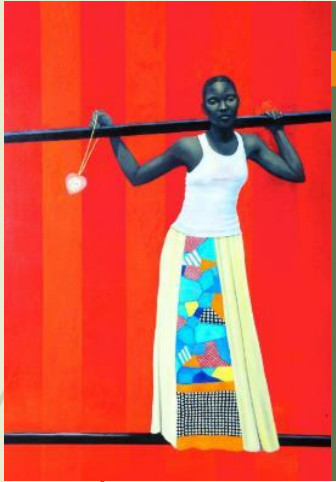


Artists

4.) Titus Kaphar

- MacArthur Grant winners', Titus Kaphar, work inspires me because he works to reveal something that has been lost and to investigate the power of unwritten history.
- The idea of disfiguring his canvas to reveal unspoken truths is extremely interesting to me and it is a concept that I will experiment with.

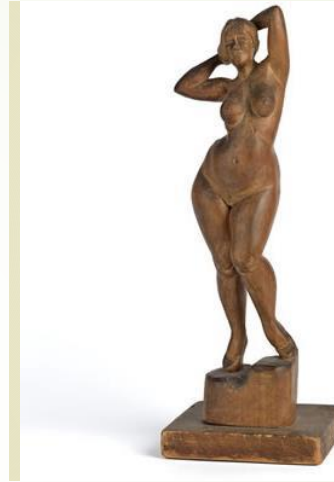
First Presentation



Artists

5.) Amy Sherald

- Sherald's work inspires because of the flat, abstracted backdrops that she uses places behind color muted figured of black men, women, and children that tell African-American stories within their own tradition.



Artists

6.) Leslie Garland Bolling

- Bolling created figures that transcend the arbitrary distinctions between "folk" and "fine" art by combining a keen observation of the human figure and realistic portrayals of the culture

Books

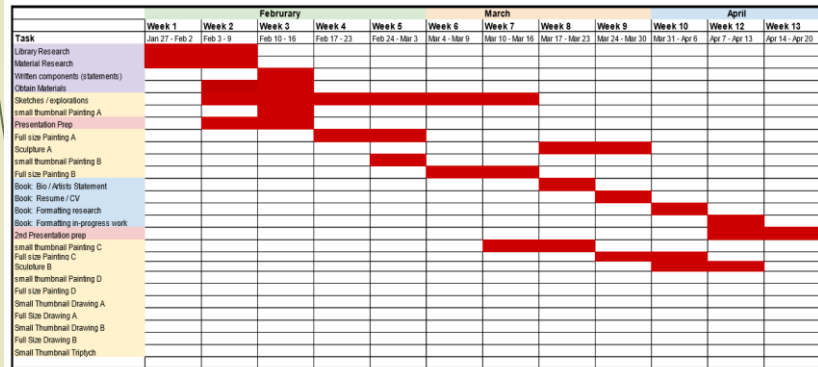
- 'Narrative of The Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave' by Frederick Douglass
- 'The Souls of Black Folk' by W.E.B DuBois
- 'This Half Has Never Been Told' by Edward E. Baptist
- 'Life Upon These Shores' by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- 'The Slave Ship' by Marcus Rediker
- 'The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness' by Kevin Young
- 'African and the Africans in the Nineteenth Century: A Turbulent History' by Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, Mary Baker
- 'Africans in the Americas: A history of the Black Diaspora' by Michael L. Conniff

Task List

- Sketches for sculptures
- Sketches for paintings and drawings
- Obtain clay for sculptures
- Talk to Desmond about kiln/firing methods
- Get canvases and paper
- Order and take DNA test
- Check-out library books
- Order paint
- Print off Gantt Chart
- Find objects for mixed media works
- More research on history of slaves and untold truths
- Lip studies

First Presentation

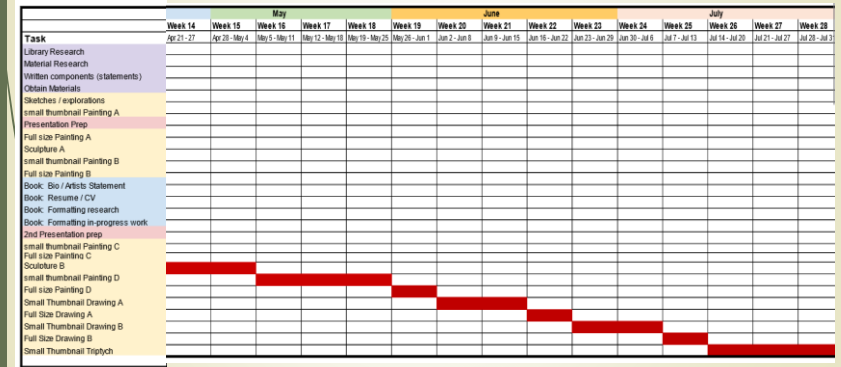
Schedule



Current Progress

- Majority of Research finished
- Past works pertaining to subject

Schedule



Special Concerns

- How to fit sculptures in kiln
- Type of clay to use to ensure support
- Transporting sculptures
- Transporting large canvases



New Proposal

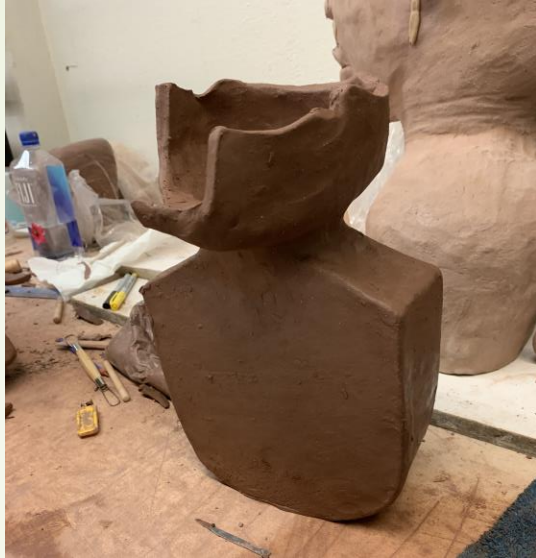
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Work In-Progress



Lesedi Onai

Work In-Progress



Aiysha Falade

Work In-Progress

Boukman



Emanuel Driggus



Work In-Progress



Nyarai Egebe

Work In-Progress



Amare Igwe

Work In-Progress



Jabari Sarpong



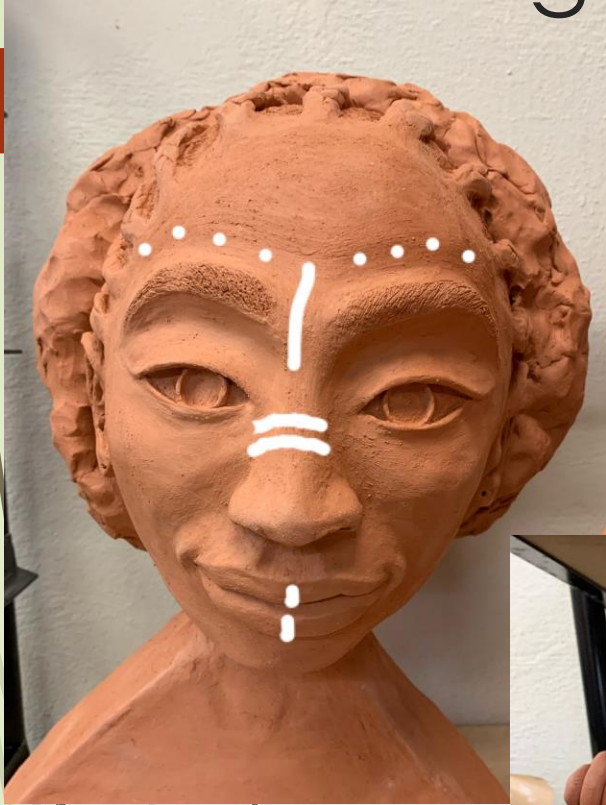
Work In-Progress



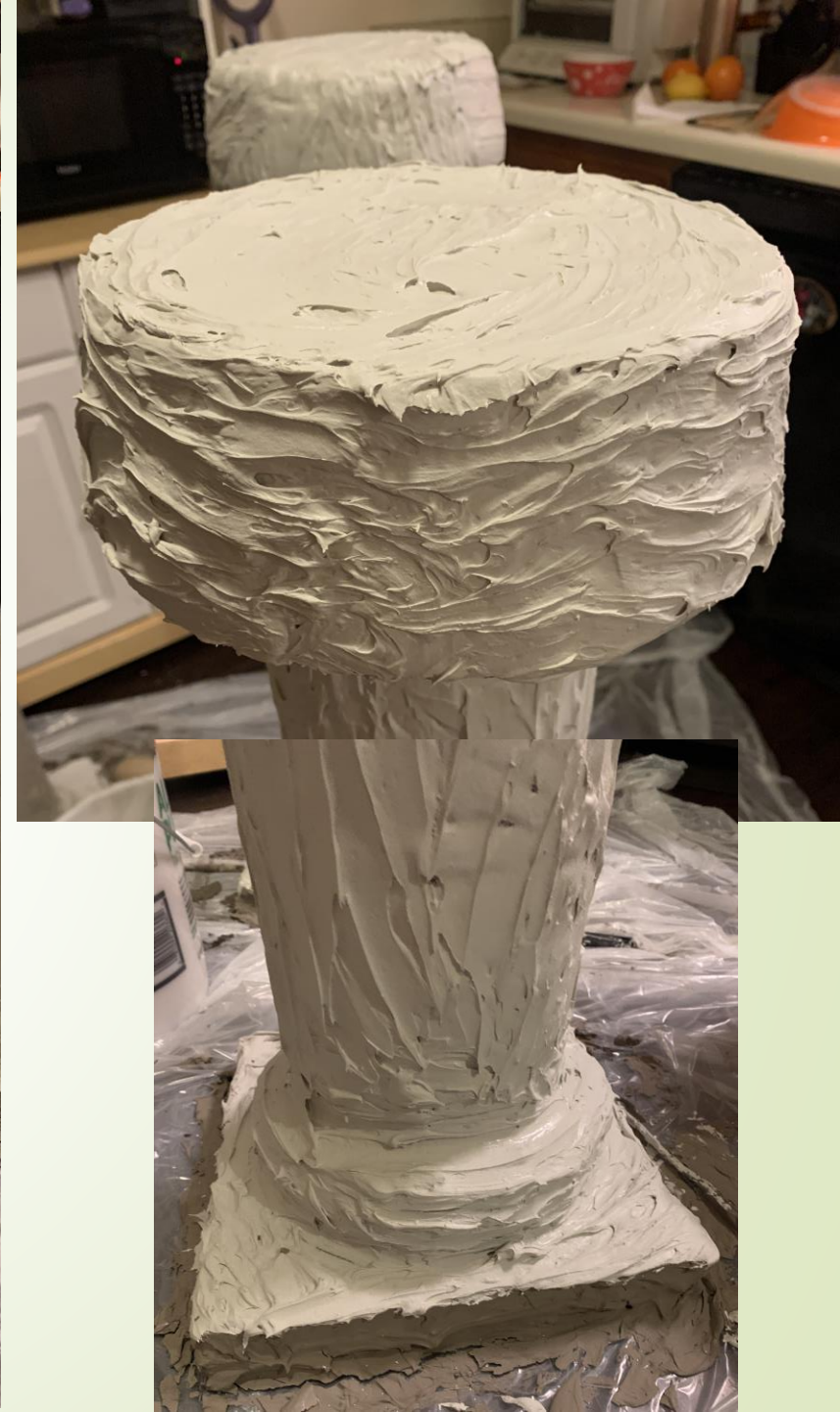
Toussaint L'ouverture



Work In-Progress



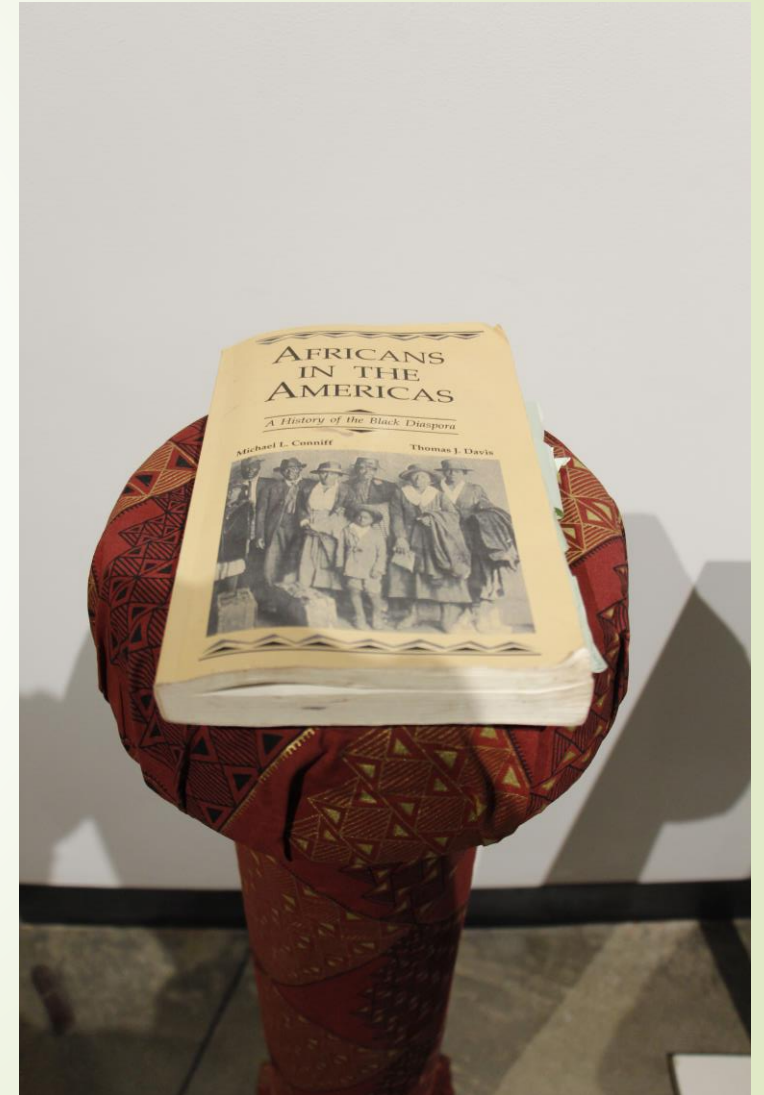
Work In-Progress



Final Show Documentation

Artist Statement

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Woman of Light
Lesedi Onai
Brought into slavery for
reproductive abilities and was
forced to marry then birth eleven
children. Later, Lesedi was traded
for crops to African women who
enlisted her in military. After serving
she went on to create an
orphanage for children who outlived
their slave wife mothers and
were forgotten about.



Possesses Great Strength
Amare Igwe

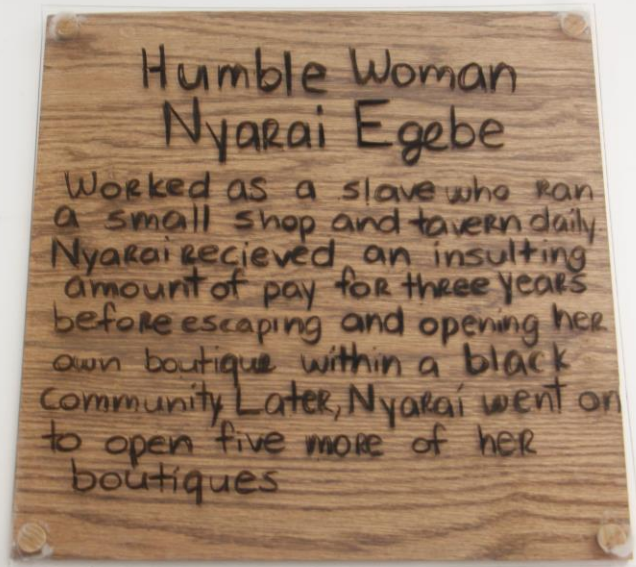
Survived three month voyage
through Middle Passage — naked
with very little food. Amare struggled
to find a way in America but she
kept in contact with other passengers
from the voyage. This led to her
becoming the leader of a group of
them who overturned a plantation
and made it into a thriving
black community.



Boukman

During the Haitian Revolution, Boukman was the first leader of slaves when the revolts began. When plotting their revolt, Boukman contacted conspirators using African languages. He and his people went on to attack on August 22, 1791 and outnumbered the whites fourteen to one. Unfortunately, Boukman died shortly after the fighting began.





Fearless, Brave, Courageous
Tabari Sarpong

Deserted his master shortly after the introduction of slavery and fled to mountainous terrain on an island in Cuba. Once there, Tabari established the first sanctuary for escaped slaves to defend themselves against recapture by masters and public authorities. After a while, he and his people established secure settlements.



Emanuel Driggus

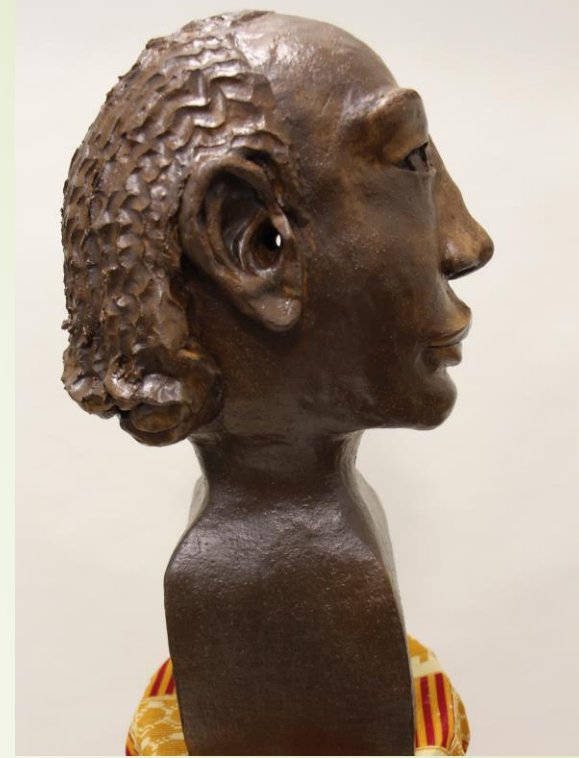
Emanuel was a planter who owned land and livestock. Because of this, he was able to purchase the release of his family from slavery. He was a wealthy man and because of this, he had legal rights in court - suing and being sued, giving testimony and winning and losing cases.



Powerful and Complete Aiysha Falade

Aiysha worked as a slave mining silver in Mainland Spanish America for five years where she gained the highest skill level in the industry. Finally, Aiysha escaped and went on to establish her own silver mining company in which she hired only blacks.





Professional Materials



Self-Critique

- In my thesis, I began by reading a book called *Africans in the Americas: A History of the Black Diaspora* and using what I have learned throughout my entire school career in creative writing to create a series of fictional and nonfictional stories. Once these stories were created, I gave each one a name based on the characteristics that the individual stories held. Upon creating these stories, I began sculpting with the idea of working in a style that was reminiscent of the Baroque era. I chose this style because during the Baroque time period and in that area was a time when the African people were free and couple do as they pleased; however, we do not see much of the African people in this style of artwork unless it is in some way demeaning.
- With all of my sculptures, with the exception of one, began with a geometrically designed base then I moved to creating the heads. When creating the heads, I attempted to create them in a way that best fit with the base that it was being created upon and I pushed myself to work with facial expressions that I have never been confident enough to attempt. After the heads, I was forced to begin thinking about ways in which I would style their hair, another aspect of sculpture that I have never really been confident enough to attempt. In thinking about this, I began researching different hairstyles of different African cultures and decided which sculpture would get which hairstyle based on the shapes of their heads. I then researched tribal makeup and found that the colors used have certain meanings and are given to people based on their character; I then gave my sculptures certain colors based on the stories and names that I had given them.
- Throughout the entire process of creating these sculptures, the thought of how I would display them continued to weigh heavily on my mind since I did not want to use plain, white, square columns. I wanted to do something different in terms of display and wanted the display to be better integrated with African culture and the background that my thesis had. Because of this, I decided to make my own columns in a style that has been seen quite a bit throughout art history. Once the columns were created, I got the idea to wrap them in fabric that was in the patterns of different African textiles.
- In creating sculptures in the manner that I have for 4160 has changed the way that I work. I am ten times more confident in what I do and what I am capable of doing and I am no longer hesitant to experiment and challenge myself when it comes to my ceramic work.