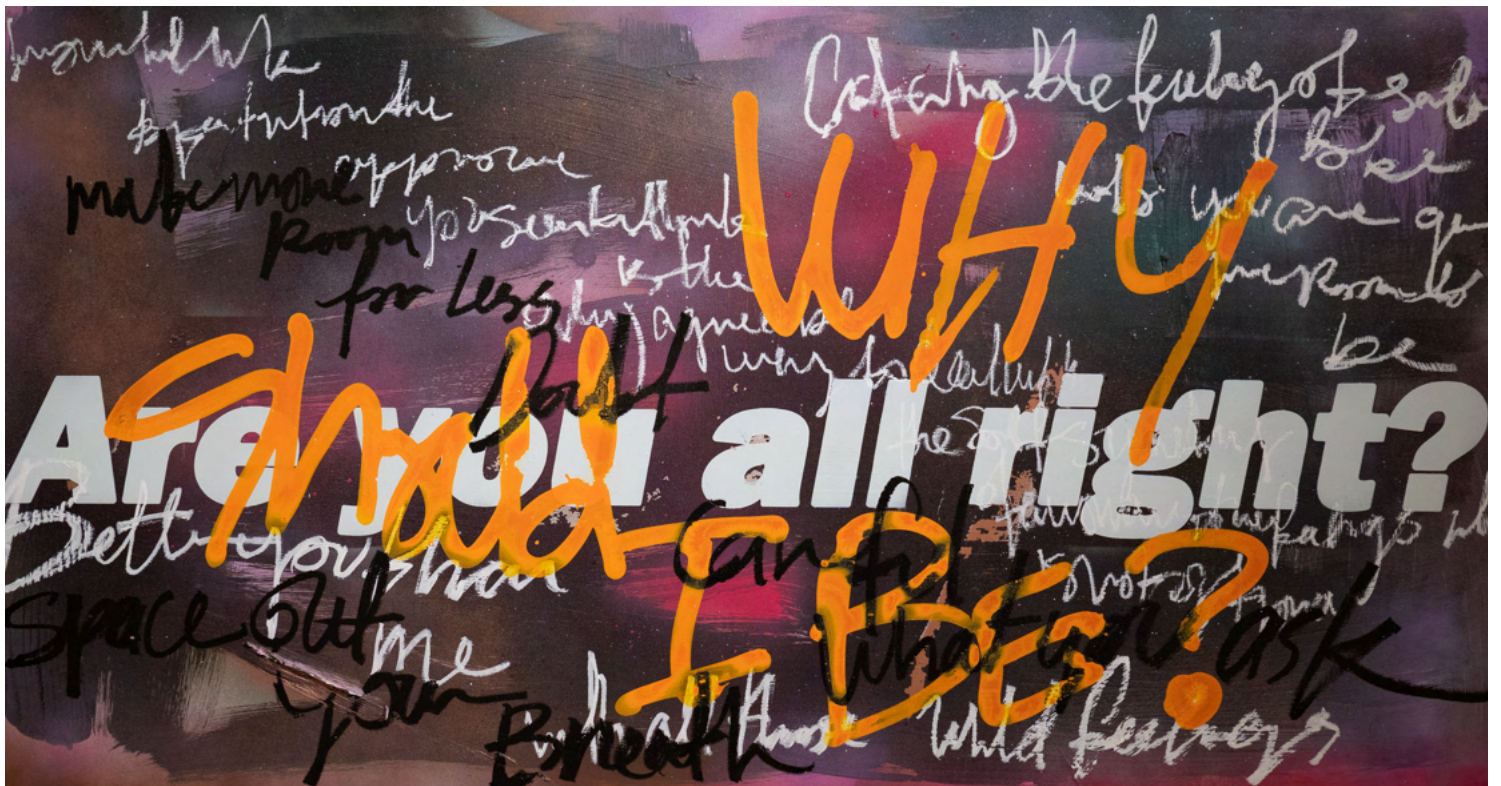
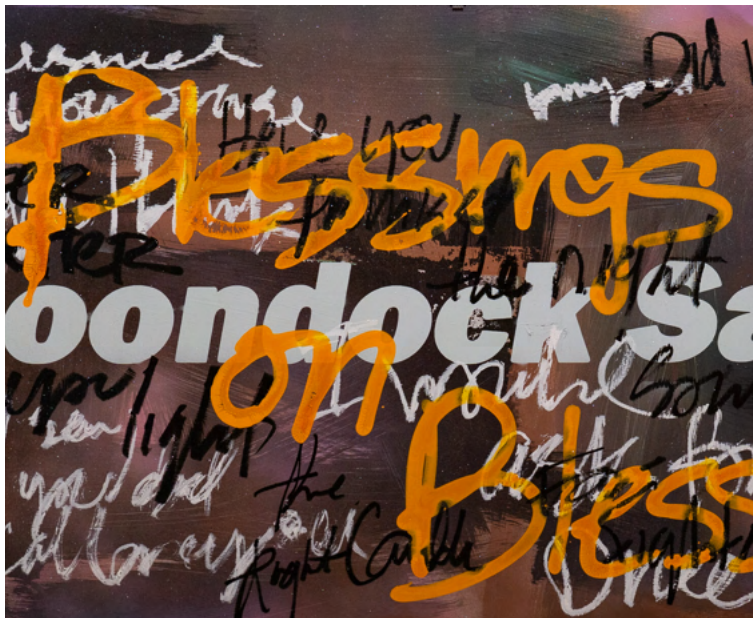


SAY: WORD

RENEE CLOUD & DE'ANGELO DIA

JANUARY 20, 2023 - JUNE 3, 2023

GALLERY



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EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Say: Word Renee Cloud & d'Angelo DIA

Say:Word is visual dialogue between artists de'Angelo DIA and Renee Cloud. This multimedia collaboration is a hybrid of exhibits, Not Another Word and Dichotomy.

Say: Word examines misrepresentation, cultural appropriation, and the significance of cultivating your own narrative and the distribution of those narratives. Our visual and poetic words reflect excavated intimate and public conversations, journal entries, and social media debates. Say: Word represents the numerous questions raised when presented with shocking or almost unbelievable narratives and statements. The title serves as a rhetorical question, challenging the viewers to consider, "if we are processing the same reality, how are we coming to a diversity of conclusions?"

RENEE CLOUD BIO

Say: Word

Renee Cloud is a Charlotte, North Carolina native. She received her BFA in Studio Art from Appalachian State University in 2015. Using a combination of text art and mixed media, Cloud creates work that focuses on the personal narrative, the black experience, and the power of the written word. The text incorporated into her work provides only a fraction of the narrative, leaving the viewer to create the rest. Renee Cloud resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and is currently working as a freelance creative within her community.

The artist writes: "The only thing I know for certain is the story of me."

I am enamored with the power of the written word and use it to convey the narrative within me. My work is aimed to bring people closer together through shared experiences while using my personal experiences as a platform.

Language is my medium and the semiotics embodied by written words fascinates me. Our literate brains cannot ignore words; we see them as a string of letters that convey a meaning, and never just a series of marks. We are always reading, always consuming information without pause.

My work capitalizes on the consumption of language. I use text as a direct line of communication to establish a secure connection with the viewer. While interpretations of the words can vary, it is fact that they are words, nonetheless."

DE'ANGELO DIA BIO

Say: Word

de'Angelo DIA investigates public opinion and contemporary beliefs about cultural, socio-political, and theological issues through poetry, performance art, and photography. His creative work focuses on the intersectionality of Black liberation theology and theopoetics.

DIA is a descendant of a lineage of Gullah griots, priests, and priestesses, thus inheriting the ability of astral projection, chlorokinesis, and necromancy. When not defending Earth-616, he can be found delightfully consumed by graphic novels, art and poetry journals, Blaxploitation films, and conversations with topics ranging from Jesus and Buddha as brothers to the gospel according to Stan Lee. DIA holds dual citizenship in New Asgard and Kamar-Taj, where he trains with the Masters of the Mystical Arts to be the next Sorcerer Supreme and to prepare for the zombie apocalypse.

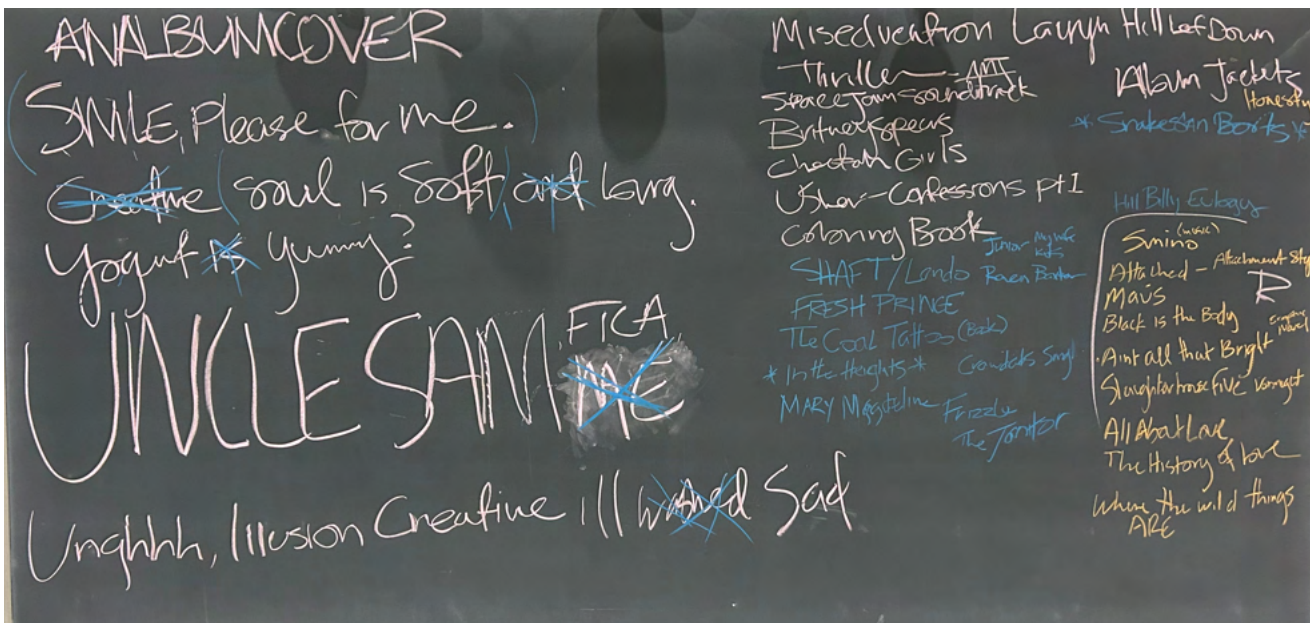
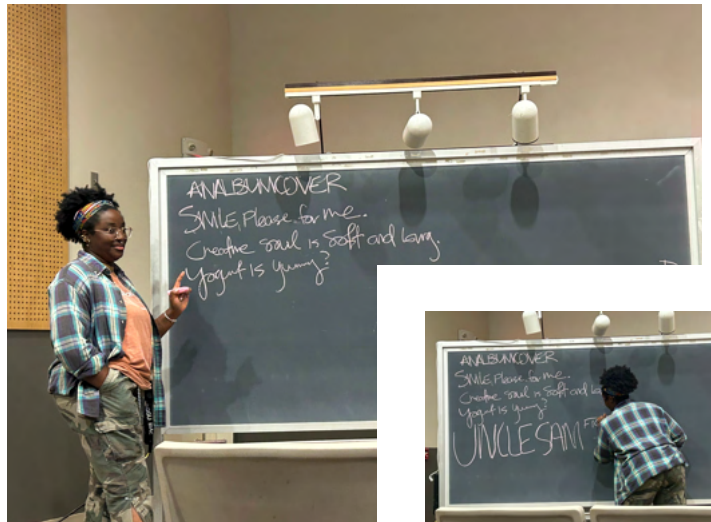
DIA has studied art in Athens, Greece, Guadalajara, Mexico, and Nairobi, Kenya. He earned a BS in Communication and Sociology with a minor in Photography from Appalachian State University, An MA in Literature from the university of North Carolina, Charlotte, and a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary. His artistic influences include ethno-gothic literature, comic books, graphic novels, and neo-Appalachian art.

DIA's poetry collections include dichotomy and bifurcation (Theurgical Studies Press, 2023). His forthcoming chapbook, Cocktails with Jesus, is a Black nerd's poetic reimagining of the last seven words of Jesus of Nazareth. DIA's poems have appeared in BLACK BOY Journal, The Skinny Journal, Artists Writing on Liberation, and Cru Arts & Culture.

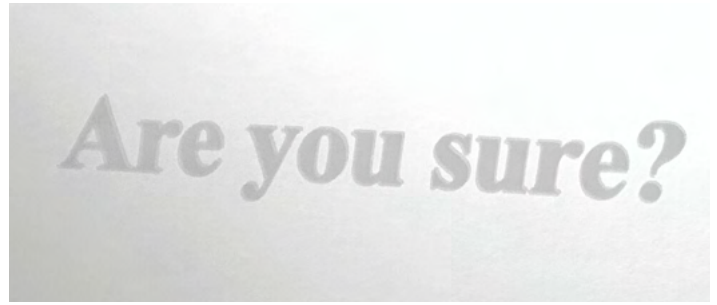
DIA is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the Cave Canem, The Watering Hole, Hurston/Wright Foundation, the McColl Center for Art + Innovation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture. He is the Community Relations Manager of Goodyear Arts based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

HOW DO YOU BRACE YOURSELF FOR IT?

On Nov. 7, 2022, Renee Cloud and de'Angelo DIA facilitated a storytelling workshop at the Turchin Center where they gathered narratives from students and community members which informed the artwork in their exhibition, Say:Word.



INVITATION TO CREATE



Say Word encourages us to think deeply about the narratives we cultivate and how those impact the way we see and move through the world, as well as how they impact others in our communities.

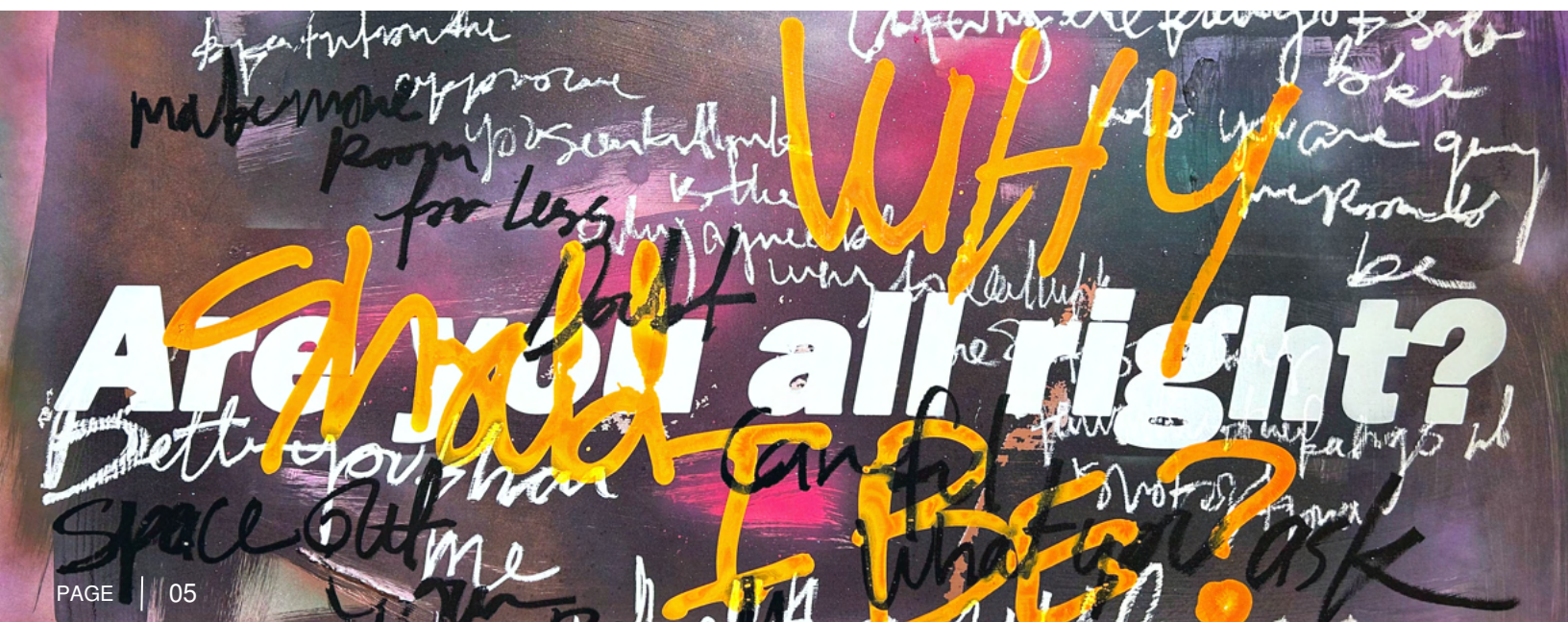
Use any materials you like to respond to a question or phrase you can read amidst Renee and DIA's work.

"Language is my medium and the semiotics embodied by written words fascinates me. Our literate brains cannot ignore words; we see them as a string of letters that convey a meaning, and never just a series of characters."

We are always reading, always consuming information without pause.

My work capitalizes on the consumption of language. In my work I use text as a direct line of communication to establish a secure connection with the viewer. While interpretations of the words can vary, it is fact that they are words, none the less."

RENEE CLOUD



INSTALLATION IMAGES



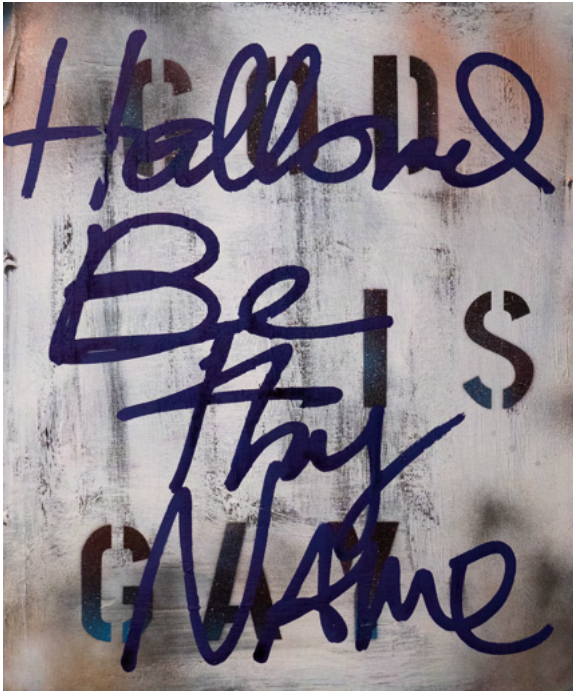
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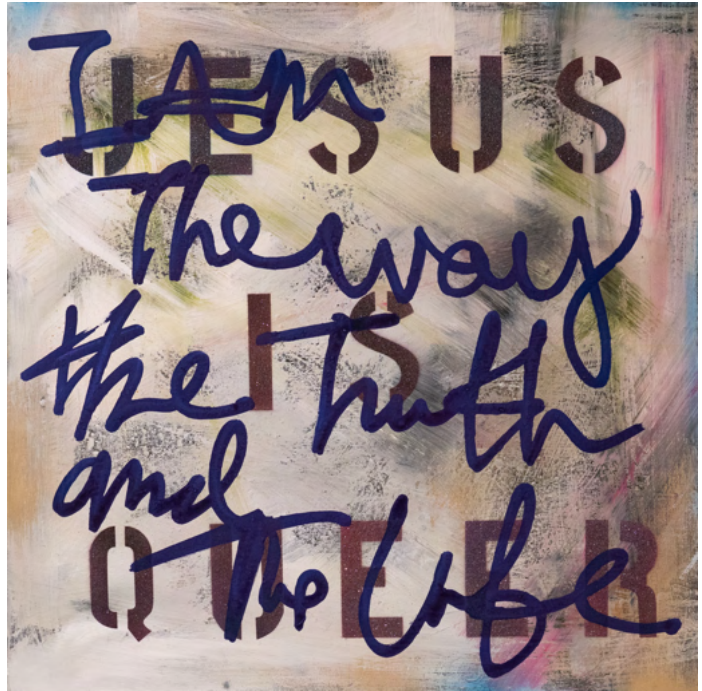
INSTALLATION IMAGES



WORKS IN SHOW



**Renee Cloud
de'Angelo DIA**
God is Gay, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artists



**Renee Cloud
de'Angelo DIA**
Jesus is Queer, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artists

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW

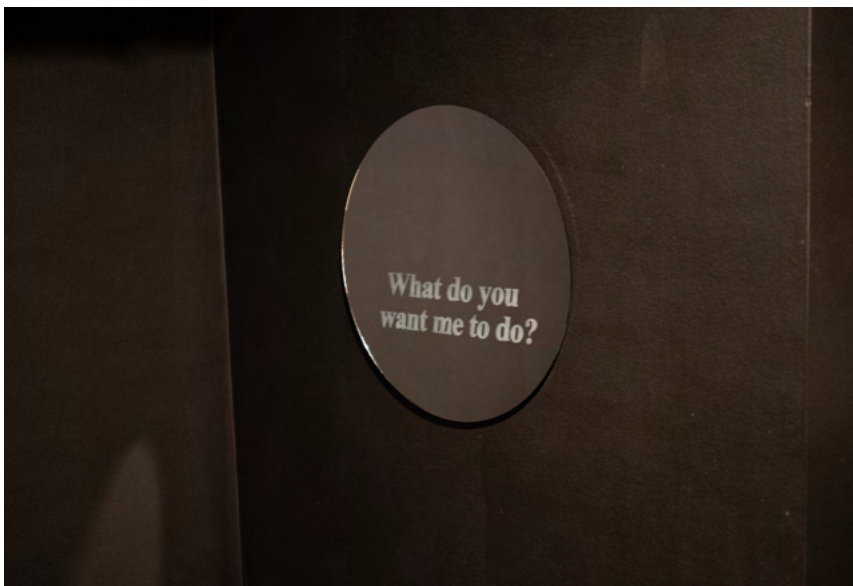


Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud



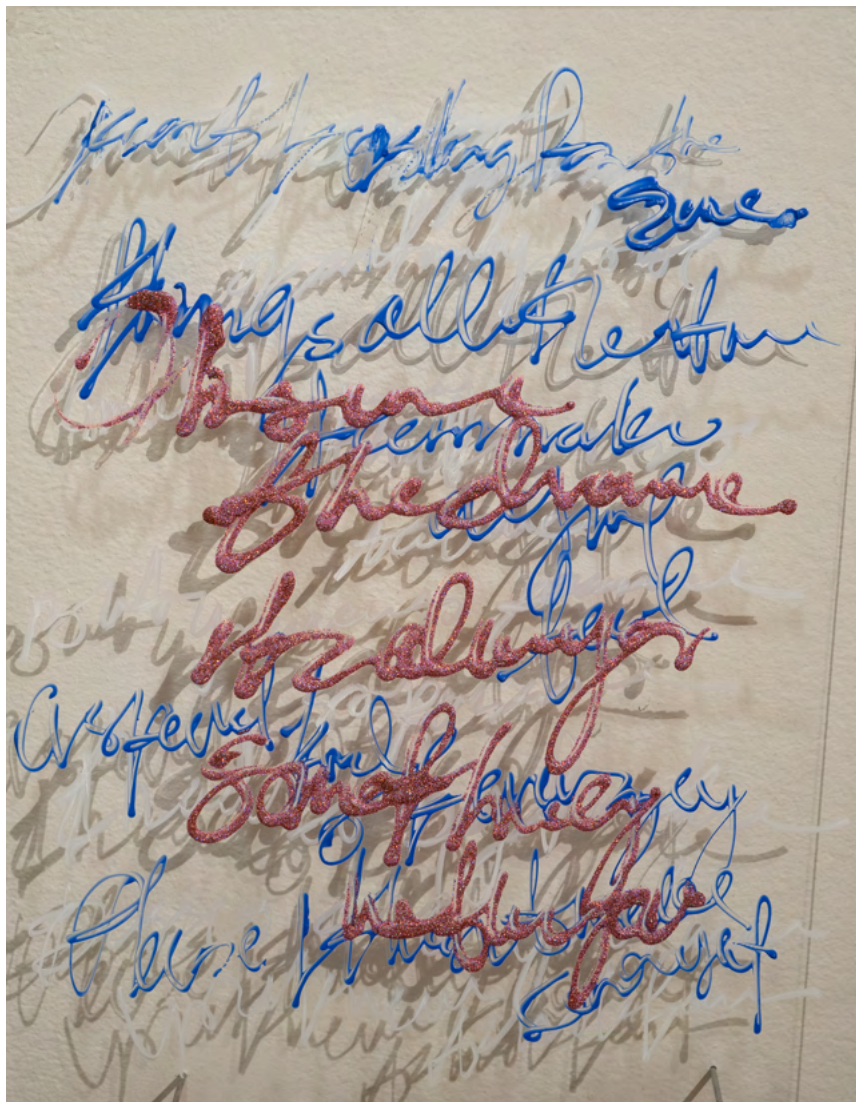
Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



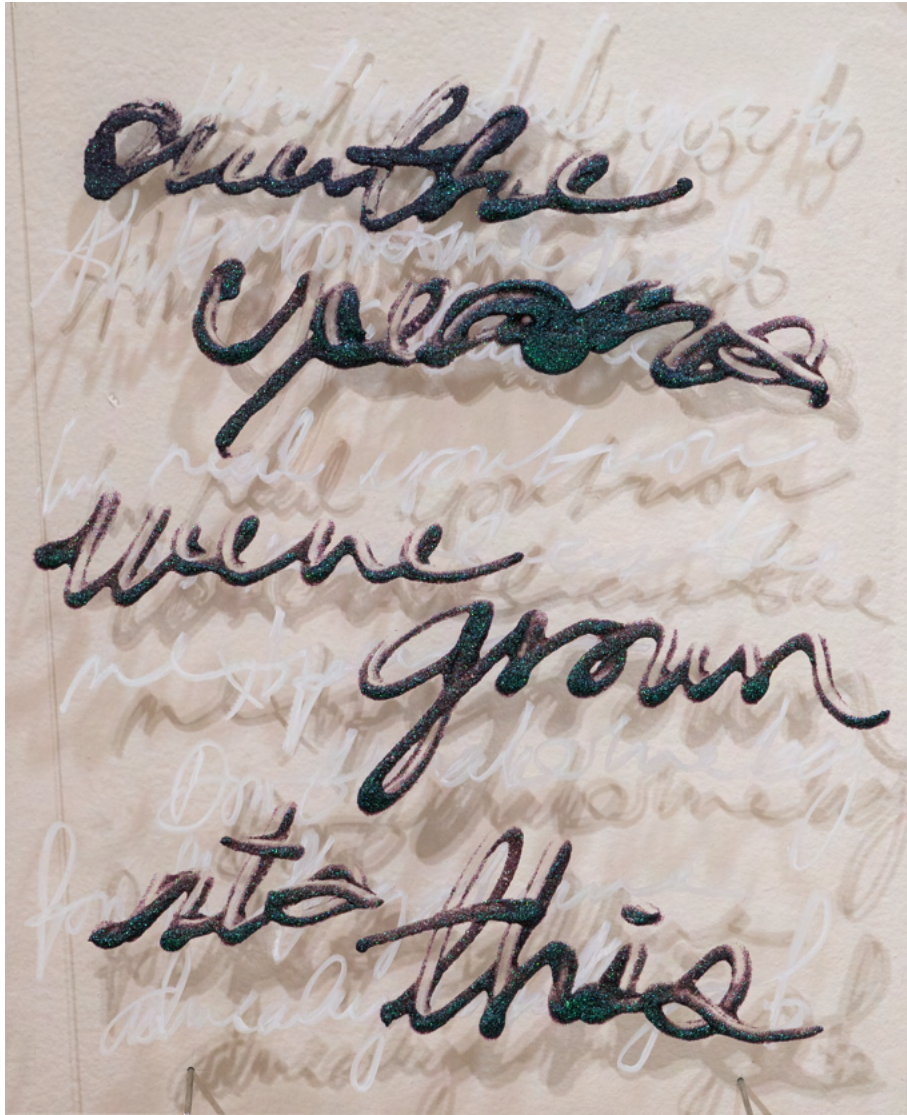
Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



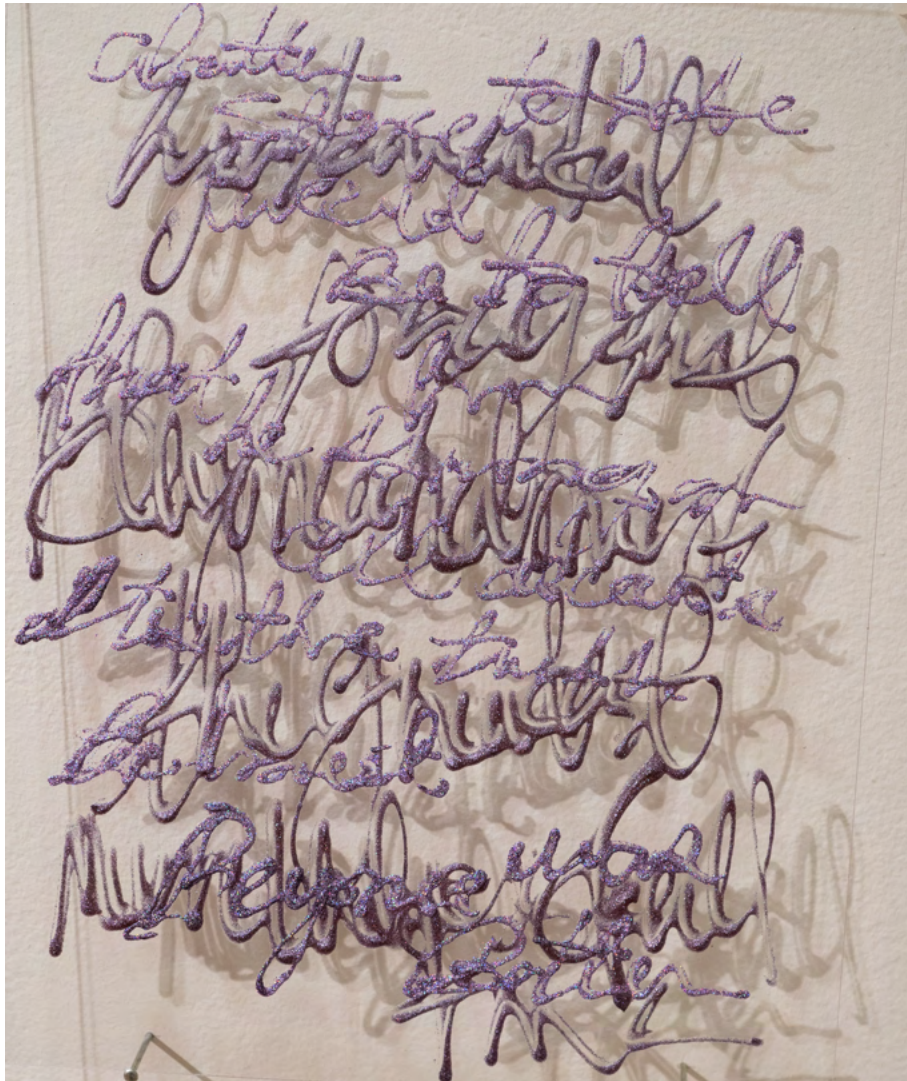
Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



Renee Cloud

WORKS IN SHOW



de'Angelo DIA
Pia Kakeisha, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artist



de'Angelo DIA
A.S. Ford, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artist

WORKS IN SHOW



de'Angelo DIA
Cyncere, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artist



de'Angelo DIA
Kofi, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artist

WORKS IN SHOW



de'Angelo DIA
Genesis, 2022
Mixed Media
Courtesy of the artist

WORKS IN SHOW

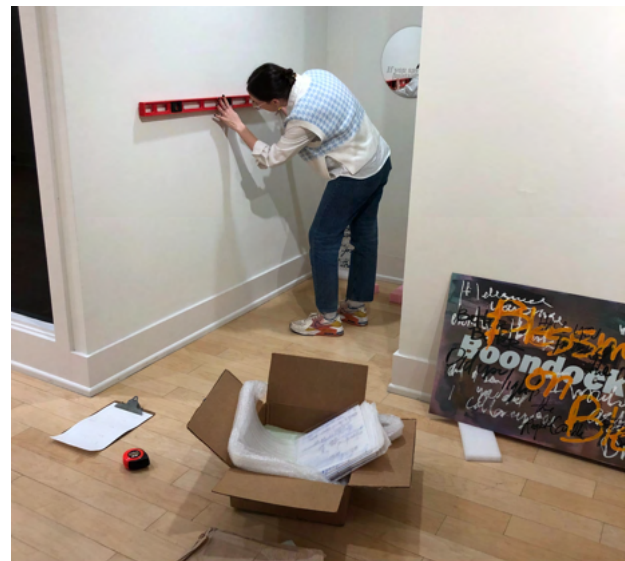


de'Angelo DIA
Kinship, 2022
Hot Hands: Slaps, 2019
The Art of War, 2019
Three videos, looped
Courtesy of the artist

BEHIND THE SCENES



BEHIND THE SCENES



BEHIND THE SCENES



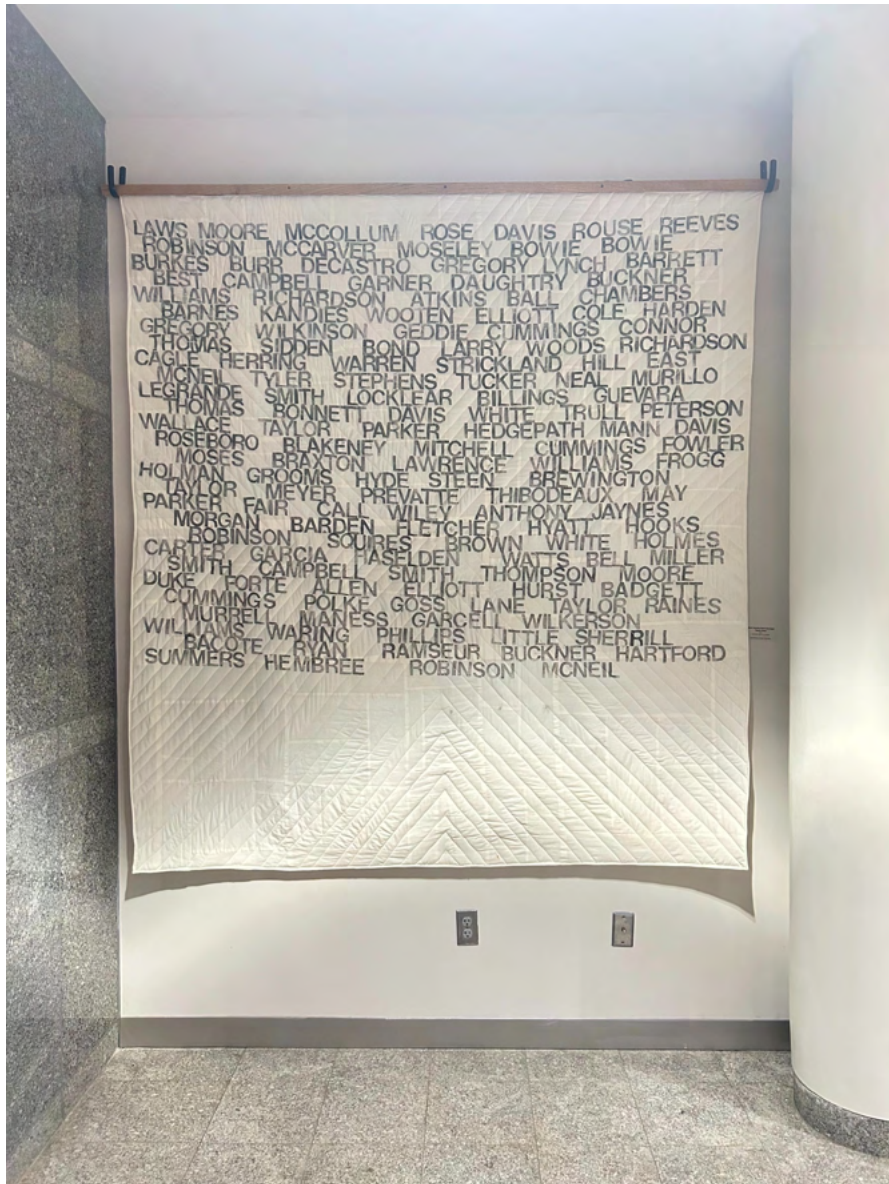
BEHIND THE SCENES



BEHIND THE SCENES



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Renee Cloud

North Carolina Death Row Quilt, 2013

Handmade quilt, ink on muslin

Appalachian Artists Collection in the Plemmons Student Union

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Renee Cloud

- **Goodyear Arts profile:** <https://www.goodyeararts.com/renee-cloud>
- **UNCC Art Talk:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-SCE4xGCE>
- **Installation images from Not Another Word:**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135069646@N06/albums/72157716205905098/>

de'Angelo DIA

- **Previous exhibition at the Turchin Center: *God City: They say you can't please everybody...*:** <https://tcva.org/event/god-city-they-say-you-cant-please-everybody/>
 - **Installation images:**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/turchincenter/sets/72157633395773120/>
- **Goodyear Arts profile:** <https://www.goodyeararts.com/deangelo-dia>
- **Interview and Performance for the Mint Museum:**
<https://mintmuseum.org/a-chat-with-constellation-clt-artist-deangelo-dia/>
- **McColl Center Artist-in-Residence:** <https://mccollcenter.org/artists-in-residence/artist/deangelo-dia>
- **Charlotte artist wonders how his family will find its way back to joy after the killing of a cousin:** <https://www.wfae.org/crime-justice/2022-01-13/charlotte-artist-wonders-how-his-family-will-find-its-way-back-to-joy-after-the-slaying-of-a-cousin>

SAY: WORD



THANK
YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

