

Artist's Statement

Tricia Townes makes works that seek to heal herself and various communities that matter to her. She began working with what is now an ongoing series of artworks with her family and friends as subjects. Townes describes her family as a “normal dysfunctional” one in need of healing, begging for psychological analysis. This work is a moving target, and probably will never be completed to her satisfaction. Townes has described the family unit as the first and most intimate microcosm of the larger communities that exist in the world. She has made and is in the process of making socially engaged artworks that focus on healing aspects of some larger communal issues including redlining, “urban renewal,” urban food deserts, and the tragic legacy of slavery.

Townes has also made a series of paintings celebrating communities of difference. Those works are compositions of designs from marginalized cultures that position them as first-class US citizens. Except for the socially engaged artworks, all of them are made with acrylic paint, either on canvas, gauze, or domestic linens. Townes decided to make these works as beautiful as she can as a part of her process. She believes that the creation of beauty and its contemplation is a healing modality.

The work that Townes does is timely because currently there are so many communities in need of healing across the board, beginning with the proto community, The Family. Townes sees “normal dysfunction” as a universal theme shared by many families. Her impulse to heal herself and others is a way to build bridges from the margins of her African American experience, empathetically to other marginalized communities, and to the center of the Caucasian world.