Jada Patterson

Biography

Fall 2022

Jada Patterson is an artist and gallerist born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics and Art History. Jada’s studio practice is multi-disciplinary as she makes work primarily in clay and beeswax exploring the human condition pertaining to identity, material culture and adornment. Her curatorial practice centers, but is not limited to Queer and BIPOC sculptural artists. Jada has attended fellowships and residencies at the Ox-Bow School of Art, Charlotte Street Foundation and is currently the Artist in Residence at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

Website – jadapatterson.com

Instagram - @color.andshape

Statement:

The intersections of identity, material culture and personal histories are the basis of my work. I am deeply interested in Black traditions related to hair and body adornment. These traditions are often embedded into my work, as adornment was a passageway for stepping into my womanhood.

My work consists of delicate hand sculpted and cast objects in predominately clay and beeswax, as well as found objects used for assemblage. The ways in which I think of objects, materials, texture, color and clay body all reference the human body. The beeswax I work with is used as a protectant and sealant in my work, but is also fragile and skin like in its nature. This material makes up a large part of my work; as it pays homage to the patriarchs in my family who bee kept in the rural south, the matriarchs who hats I cast in beeswax to seal in their legacies and the in betweenness of my existence where of all of their histories collide in me.

Through my art I work to honor those who came before me and those who raised me. By vehicle of materiality, familiar objects and sense evoking I hope my work also helps to reveal the human commonality we feel in death, adornment and ritual.