

Aaron Caldwell Artist Statement

Being Black* and gay in the United States continuously has had me find myself in positions of activism and resistance to power structures. This relationship I continue to have with resistance, pain, struggle, boldness and activism is commonly what Blackness and queerness* are boiled down to. My work explores the quiet interior of Black and gay folk. I create works that source moments, ideas and practices that hold, sometimes unexplainable, relevance and importance to my communities, as well as, ones that may only resonate with my experiences. My work serves as a reminder that there is more to Black and queer folk than our resistance and pain. My work creates an opportunity to look at Black and queer identity without the lens of resistance, but instead a lens of interiority; allowing us to be multifaceted humans that engage in both the loudness and the quietness of our cultures and ourselves.

*Black and queer are used as inclusive terms for those who are not African-American or gay, but are Black and queer.