

Xxavier Edward Carter Artist Statement

My work is multisensorial, layered, and ever evolving to the circumstances I encounter. I base my practice on the idea of existing with a small ecological footprint. I try to incorporate my daily living into my practice. My work blends the complexities of personal interactions, media bombardment from radio, television, and internet, observed experiences, and excesses of physical material in the landscape. This extends into videos, publications, installations, and performances. There is no set formula that I go about to make my work and I try to take a very democratic approach to material. I am Black and Native American and view my work as a continuation of the survival practices and storytelling practices of the cultures I was born into. Broader, I am interested in how these strategies and practices have their analogies in other cultures. Stories of origins, stories of the afterlife, stories of superhuman beings, and stories of love and tragedy are most interesting to me. From these ideas I try and create work dealing with what these they mean in an often violent and oppressive context. I see my work as bravely forging new ground by creating new stories from the links of a chain that is often marked by the destructive nature of humanity.

I want my artwork to be just as rich as my daily experiences, so I source from all aspects of my life. In a way it is kind of a collage. What is important for me is final product and the suspension of disbelief that the combination of materials has given birth to something new from what was not just simply existing as a derivative object that is the sum of its parts. This is not an act of recycling, rather it is a reassertion of the ambiguity of things and a broadening of the usefulness of an object to fit often unthought of circumstances.

With respect to that I want my work to function in the public and be part of critical conversations around environmentalism and the cultural shifts the global community is undergoing as a result of resource exploitation, technological advancements, and historical conflicts. Personally, that is a proposition to explore the beauty of living. An overarching goal of my practice is to develop spaces for learning and living with respect to the earth and the people living on it, this is the story I want to tell.