

Chrisonia DeCosta

Inspiration comes to a person when they take what they know and look past it. These words of wisdom tell a tale of what I aspire to become and what makes me who I am. Being in a household run by grandparents, growing up was confusing. The typical 'mommy/daddy' figures the TV would show me did not fit the puzzle of what family was in my life. Already, I was pigeonholed to automatically being set up for failure. No 'real parents'? Also, accompanied by me being an African American female? The odds were against me.

Art started off as simple and silly; a child in an art class drawing 'family portraits' of herself and her own characters. The perfect picture of family does not require what society deems as perfect.

Soon, I began to understand a culture shares its' stories through art. I want to take the next step and combine storytelling, movement and art. Discovering this, it has become a passion for me for me to bring a story to life, and display it to the media.

This series of narrative paintings explores the idea of females growing up, mental and physical maturity. Females, especially adolescents, are very drawn to their friends. Displayed in The Bench Series, the female figures connect and become sister-like. Although very close spiritually, the girls also show a subtle disconnect, and this is because they are growing up. Growing old is necessary, but growing up is optional. In The Bench Series, the girls display the 'optional' aspect of growing up, by keeping close to their childhood by dressing up colorful and pretty. These thoughtful expression girls are afraid of what make come after they decide to grow up, and possible part from their 'sisters.'

In the GALAXY Series, the display of maturity is very strong. These once innocent, playful girls are now seen either dressing or undressing; the viewer will not know the difference. The series is not explicitly sexual, but does show sexuality. The galaxy on the inside flap of the clothes tells how a woman's body is her everything. After she reaches a certain age she is objectified and over sexualized by society and the media. She may become prey to predators and told it is her fault, just because she is female. The GALAXY Series might first to be taken in as 'crude' and 'sexual', but this thought shows that the viewer has listened to 'mother culture' and feeds into the negative aspect of society that oppresses women.