May 10, 2021
Hi I’m Dey Rivers doing the Artist Takeover this week! On a regular week you can follow me @artbydey. I am non-binary, Black American, queer, artist & writer living with PTSD. I love doing creative work with youth, BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ communities and spaces where I reside on unceded stolen land of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. I have an educational background in Fine Art. A couple community care certifications. A soft spot for porches, food, and making tea especially when they all converge. This week is all about creating in community even if it is a community of one. See some of my art, unlearn and relearn, play, and invite you to create as well. A big thank you to 5Oaks Museum for the space to share this with y’all!

On Tuesday - Video unveiling of works in progress! How the series came about by using patterns and plant imagery as a self-soothing process and working with what I have.

Wednesday - Join me in a project to embrace “mistakes” and playfulness. All you need is a piece of paper, a felt pen or a pencil without an eraser

Thursday - Creating nature art as a queer Black bodied person is part reclamation, part joy, part cultural reckoning. Let me take you on a journey of history, plant medicine, and bodies

Friday: Writing and Art are parallel in my world; they simply happen at different times of the day. Behind the scenes: my home studio, daily practices, and what I do when I’m not on Instagram (which is often)

Saturday: Remember those drawings on Wednesday? We return to them with a few more supplies: colored markers and/or crayons, magazines or colored paper for collaging, and glue. I’ll be available to answer your questions as we create in community. That’s right, I’ll be Live for a fun Q&A!

#takeover #artisttakeover #community #art #artist #project #creative #museum #tea #video #plantart #play #selfcare #bodies #pencil #pen #natureart #painting #practice #drawing #colors #paper #studio #artlife #fun #writing #welcome
May 11, 2021
First look at a “little” work in progress! 35 almost-finished small paintings are a part of my Soulscape(s) series started June 2020... last year was hard for a variety of reasons including struggling with my own mental health challenges, on top of the valid and needful protests, Black people- their bodies dying for living, wildfires... i took stock of what was around me, what was uncomplicated, what brought me solace: 40 blank brown invitation cards, #watercolors, and plants. #wip

Not just any plants, imaginary botanicals. As I painted adding in gouache, some plants and flowers turned out to be recognizable. By using intuitive patterning, an unplanned sequence of shapes and lines otherwise known as doodling, I slow down and call forth what is innately held within me where nothing is a mistake.

I am not a mistake. My Blackness, my queerness is not a mistake. We belong here on this earth ALIVE. Another triangle, another waved line, another circle, another diamond. Another leaf, another petal, another stem, another root system. Bodies growing. Bodies existing. In bold Colors.

Four left to finish the series. Three gifted. Two paintings I don’t like (it happens 🙁 ). Next steps: Varnish and listening to how they want to be presented.

Slide 1: Video shows a smock hanging on an easel and the edge blue painting, video pans down to 31 small paintings zooming in on several plants and flowers with pattern details, all paintings are laid out on a wood panel.
Slide 2: shows four small paintings in various stages of completion. Upper left painting has six bright green shoots growing from brown ovals on yellow background with thin dark blue border, lower center show two blue six petal flowers with orange hash pattern and triangles along opposite sides on medium brown background and dark blue border, upper right has gradient background orange to brown and yellow border, lower right has red magenta background and bright orange border.

Slide 3: a messy metal watercolor palette with replaceable pigment wells and three brushes angles to the right side.
May 12, 2021

Join me in an art activity for y'all! Going outside or taking the time to observe nature relaxes me, invites me to play and enjoy myself.

Step 1: Go outside! Look closely at the plants and flowers you see. If going outside is difficult, observe the shape and formations of a houseplant, do an online image search for strange and unusual plants (this one is a favourite of mine 😊). Or look at plant books laying around.

Step 2: Get some paper of any size and a felt pen or pencil without an eraser

Step 3: Turn off or away from the plants and/or images you saw. Take a moment to let the shapes sink in. Pick up the pen or pencil. **Extra challenge: use your non-dominant hand**

Step 4: Start drawing and let your plant or flower take shape, remember there are NO MISTAKES, roll with whatever lines you create

Step 5: Add some patterns!

Step 6: Tag @fiveoaksmuseum with your artwork and I will share it in Stories with the community! Can't wait to see what y'all create! 🎨

#play #artoftheday #instaart #community #artistlife #art #communalart #patterns #drawing #artchallenge #nomistake #artwork #flowers #houseplants #natureart #create #shape #learn #observe #books #paper #pen #pencil #relax #enjoy #plants
May 13, 2021
Nature Queer Black Bodies

A quick informal talk on my approach to nature art, reclamation, cultural reckoning, joy, history, medicine and bodies

(i didnt add captions. And didnt realize the connection was spotty. My apologies ☹️)

#artoftheday #natureart #queer #bodies #black #plant #medicine #joy #outside #trees #sunshine #culture #history #artist #talk #art #painting #stories #thursday #intersex #affirmations #nonbinary #body #ecology #environment #botany #flowers
May 14, 2021

My studio pics!
Slide 1: Parallel pictures of a small painting, left side four imaginary flowers clustered together. Right side the words written in calligraphy “All plants grow best in community with each other and in connection to their surrounding environment”

Slide 2: My desk where writing happens in daylight hours. Just finished a virtual residency teaching creative writing to high schoolers. Writing also happens outside, and while walking or on the pouf by the window. Writing Tip: I learned from Marita Golden, set a timer to stand up and stretch every 20min (I’m still working on doing that). Tea is also very important.

Slide 3: Picture is taken in the daytime, but imagine it is evening, the sun going down, getting darker and a lamp turns on at my desk, paints get set out for working on small watercolor and gouache paintings. To intuitively paint, art happens late evening, when my brain isn't thinking too hard. Involves music, shows, or movies playing in the background that don't require me to pay close attention.
Slide 4: An ultramarine blue background lightened in spots with titanium white painting on a wood easel. Acrylic paint in plastic bags, palette, and brushes in a reused yogurt container for water are set up on a folding table. I acquired Diablitos (handmade little devil dolls 😈) a couple months ago to keep me company while I work. They are usually chilling out on the easel when I’m not working on it.

Slide 5: Total studio space (doesn’t always look this tidy 😃) a bookshelf between the desk and easel with finished paintings leaning on it. Renting a space that isn’t meant for an art studio means I am extra careful about how messy I am. Drop cloth is a must!

Writing is both for fun and work. Work: Applying for creative grants and more grants, and yet another grant. Applying for residencies, tracking income and expenses. Fun: Hanging out and writing with my daily virtual writing group! Reading student work. Creating fictional worlds, poems, and prosy observations which make an appearance in my art. (see slide 1)

#plant #creative #writer #tuesday #artoftheday #artist #dailyart #dailypractice #process #communty #color #painting #painter #art #studio #artstudio
May 15, 2021

The time has come to end the takeover. Thanks to 5 Oaks Museum and the those of you who followed along! I leave you with an colorful interpretation of honeysuckle and remember we all have roots, branches, joys and sorrow. Lives are precious and deserving of love. 🌻

You can find me @artbydey

#translivesmatter #blacklivesmatter #queer #love #flower #nature #art #lessons #saturday #life #artist #artoftheday #roots #joy #colorful #thankful #branches #plants #create