

**Michelle Mashon**  
**Artist Statement**

My art career has toured a varied & winding path, through collaboration with various dance and theater groups, set and video design, teaching, community projects and art event production. I attempted to assimilate art-making into every aspect of my life, only to realize that aligning it to its own space has given me the most freedom to focus on creating. Those experiences, however, did influence my methodology in ways that a direct artistic path would not have. It has become more important for me to expand concepts into a social, yet personal, story-telling context and to conceive ways in which my 2D work can expand through dimensional space, incorporating the audience and allowing them to affect the work and be part of the creative process. This has further led me to my current *aesthetic* goals- to expose subtleties and to reveal the minor narratives lost in the bigger picture by removing imagery from its context & exploring the opportunities that arise for the viewer's appropriation and ownership. I aim to examine the possibilities in which printmaking can be incorporated into other 2D media and ways in which I can utilize the repetition and processes of printmaking as a statement in my work. I wish to continue creating large-scale installation pieces collaboratively, which draw the viewer into a proactive role and result in a greater impact on the public. As an educator, I believe greater involvement creates a greater understanding of art, and this public empowerment is a necessary objective for my art making.