

## Victoria L Awkward Artist Statement

The rapidly changing environments of dance practice propel me into heightened awareness of my physical body, other dancing bodies, and navigating shared space. This dynamic consciousness informs my daily life.

Like dance, writing and visual arts help me to tap into a truer version of self, giving space to parse apart languages and designs that have been given to me without my consideration. Dancing, writing, and crafting are all ways of practicing imagination. Building tools to ideate and liberate myself from the systems that do not serve me.

My work serves as a space for me to feel welcomed and at home as a queer Black creator. I tend to work predominantly with other queer Black folk and hope my audiences can see themselves reflected in my work. Concert dance has a history of exclusivity. But because I want my family, blood and otherwise, to benefit from my artwork, I am excited to partner my multiple mediums together so that the communities I care about can experience familiarity within my work even within its abstraction. I follow in the footsteps of Black queer artists who have long done their own make up, crafted their own sets, adorned their own costuming, and wrote their own poetry.

While I'm specific about who my artwork is made by and for, I am elated by the potential that folks of a wide range of backgrounds and identities can find inspiration with my art. I am inspired by the notion that we are all inexplicably connected: humans, animals, and the environment. Through uplifting voices that are often at the hands of racist and homophobic systems, I hope to pave a way to an equitable future where we can be in fruitful dialogue with people of all identities.

I also see my role as an advocate for artists, especially those with marginalized identities. It's my goal to encourage government and private foundations to spread wealth equitably both in and surrounding the arts. My projects like, ***Harnessing our Gardens***, help to fortify and verify the artists who live and work in my community, highlighting our need for continued support. Secondly, I aim to shift the cultures within contemporary art that are oppressive. I remind my collaborators of the aesthetics that encourage care of body/mind/community, differences as key to a healthy community, resource abundance, and individuality that can support the collective.

With joyful, forgiving, abundant, and honest humanity  
Victoria Lynn Awkward

This artist statement was last updated 11/30/2025, and is subject to grow and change\*