

## 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. Honing this three-dimensional awareness empowers my ability to engage with ephemeral and unexpected transformation. This dynamic consciousness informs my daily life. Like Omi Osun Joni .L Jones, I also *"dream of a world where dancing is part of a healthy lifestyle, a community-building tool, and a way to connect with Divine energy."*

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. I hope my writing comes from a space of soul, providing an entry point to a new/remembered way of communicating. My design work often seen within textile creations help me to slow down, building a tactile reality over time.

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. I share my work with others because *"the more people that collaborate on [ideas that liberate all of us] the more that people will be served from the resulting world(s)"* (Emergent Strategy, adrienne maree brown).

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. My disciplines are in collaboration with one another. I also work in tandem with other artists including: musicians, theater artists, and designers to develop these multi-disciplinary threads. Partnering multiple mediums builds many entry points for my family and community to recognize themselves within my work and experience familiarity even within its abstraction.

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 5/12/2025, and is subject to grow and change\*