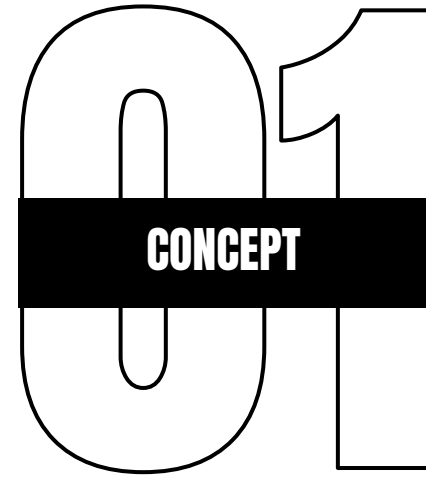


THE LITTLE BIT OF STATEMENT



I hope this message finds you well. My name is Affrica Spence, and I am deeply inspired by the possibility of collaborating on an exhibition that features my three greatest art practices, poetry, film and painting. I am excited to submit my work for consideration in this unique exhibition concept that combines the power of spoken word poetry and visual art to explore themes related to mental health, resilience, love, trauma, and identity.

As an artist, I have always been fascinated by the intricate connections between the mind and the world around us. Through my work, I aim to bridge the gap between the internal and external worlds of the human experience. Much like the two distinct fractions of mental health—the part that craves interaction with the world and the part that turns inward to make sense of it—I believe that art has the power to encompass both of these aspects.

To bring this concept to life, I propose the creation of an immersive exhibition that consists of two distinct rooms, each with its own thematic focus and artistic approach.



THE CREATOR

Affrica “Dess” Spence, is a proud second generation Jamaican Canadian. A lover of all things arts with a specialty in film creation, painting and spoken word poetry. They have completed both film production and film studies training at Concordia University and the NYFA. Affrica has also garnered notice as an official selection in several events including but not limited to: Nuit Blanche Toronto, the Caribbean Tales International Film Festival, Montreal

Independent Film Festival, WebFest T.O and the NY International Arts Festival. As for painting and spoken word, this self taught artist has performed for organizations such as Toronto Artscape and been featured in galleries such as the BC Penticton Gallery. From 2018 to present day most of her attention has been building a passion project, Voetry, a documentary styled anthology that combines spoken word poetry and visual arts.

THE CREATOR
THE CREATOR
THE CREATOR
THE CREATOR
THE CREATOR



THE TWO ROOM BREAKDOWN

The first room, which I will call the "within" room, will serve as a sanctuary for introspection and grounding. Drawing from my own experiences with mental health and recovery, I understand the importance of self-awareness and reflection. In this room, visitors will find guided meditation sessions accompanied by pre-recorded spoken word poetry. The atmosphere will be carefully designed to evoke ease and comfort, with elements such as consistent heating (if possible) and soft shag mats provided for relaxation. The decor in this room will be eclectic, aiming to create a warm and welcoming environment. Note that throughout this room various acrylic paintings of mine which feature the self and mindfulness through 9 mid to large pieces..

IThe second room, the "beyond" room, will be a vibrant social space that encourages interaction and stimulates the mind. This room will feature three distinct spoken word films displayed on three of the walls. While the films will play simultaneously to immerse attendees in the visual arts, visitors will have the option to choose which film's audio they would like to hear through a central console.

ABOUT FILMS

THE SPOKEN WORD PROJECT

SUMMARY

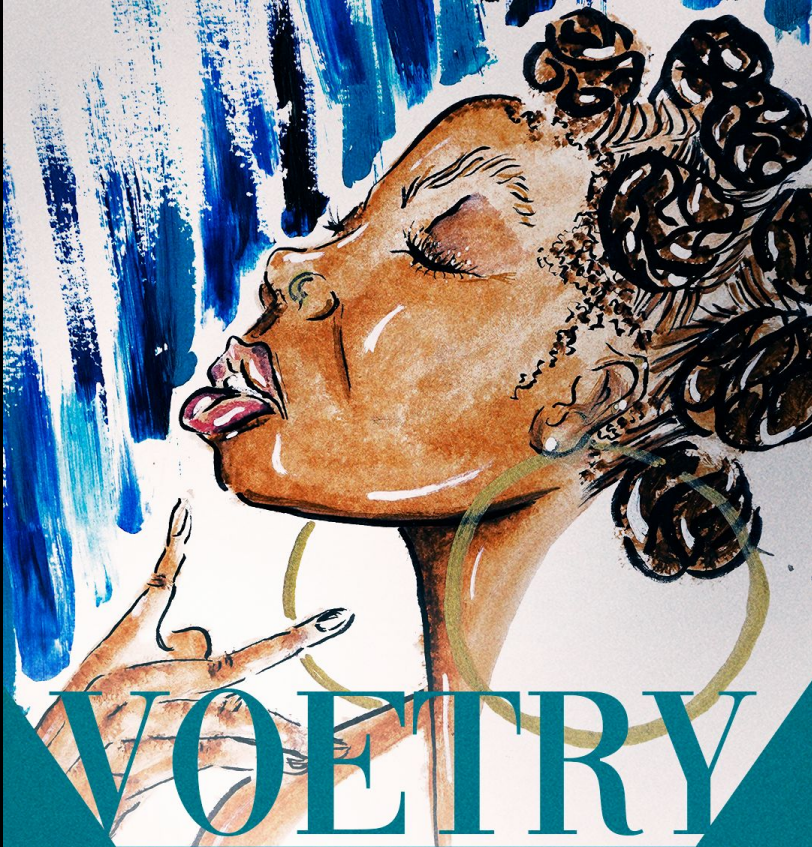
The films, provided by my organization Voetry, will explore themes such as identity, trauma, resilience, and love. They will serve as a catalyst for meaningful conversations and shared experiences among attendees. The power of storytelling, as expressed through spoken word poetry, will serve as a therapeutic and unifying force in this room.

This project captures the depth of filmed day to day moments, coupled with their intimate poetic confessions through the art of spoken word.

Each rendition of spoken word poetry paints the picture of individuals through a series of intimate stand alone short films..

Characters explore poetry that inspires, advises, seeks truths and breaks through ever changing life lessons. Despite the variation amongst each poem, stands an undeniable connection to the human experience.

Enjoy this anthology that will link word to individual, individual to a collective and the collective beyond the barriers of your screen.



EDITION FOUR

A FILM BY

Affrica Spence

SPOKEN WORD POETRY

FACEBOOK:
VOETRY

AND VISUAL ARTS

INSTAGRAM:
@THISISVOETRY

THISISVOETRY.COM

EDITION 04

Affrica will pull from existing work such as Voetry, with eye opening themes of, resilience, trauma, identity and love. The artists and films selected for this exhibition will be carefully curated to align with the themes and objectives of the event. Some of the featured artists and their works could include: the following summaries...

[Click Here](#) for a
peek at the rough
unreleased films



A BLEND OF SPOKEN WORD POETRY AND VISUAL ARTS



Theme: Identity (Thunderclaw)

Assimilating to survive, but losing the power of heritage and identity in the process can leave wounds that stretch generations.



Theme: Identity (Kristen)

Not everyone sees a reflection of self when navigating the complexities of a dual cultural identity in a Canada that doesn't always make space for it.



Theme: Trauma (Greg)

In loving memory, an artist reflects on the fight for a friend's freedom from her destructive and abusive relationship.

THIS IS VOETRY

THIS IS VOETRY

A BLEND OF SPOKEN WORD POETRY AND VISUAL ARTS

THIS IS VOETRY

Theme: Resilience (Dwayne)

A father stands firm when encouraging both his daughter and many other Black girls to embrace their Blackness and be proud.



Theme: Love (Kerryann)

Forever a lover of love, hope shines eternal for the woman reflecting on and searching for Mr. Right.



Theme: Love (Affrica)

Tomorrow is never promised so the least one can do is have some happy and fulfilling sex.



THIS IS VOETRY

A BLEND OF SPOKEN WORD POETRY AND VISUAL ARTS



Theme: Trauma (Nigel)

Gun violence seeps into the minds of young and impressionable minds, leaving a disturbing and perverse impact.



Theme: Resilience (Gabrielle)

Surviving the daily battles of mental health, one step at a time is daunting yet often the only way forward.



Theme: Love (Nigel)

Love isn't always enough to keep a relationship together, but sometimes it's the only thing that can save it.

THIS IS VOETRY

THIS IS VOETRY



”

**A blend of spoken word
poetry and visual arts...**

-Dess Spence

Director's Reel [Click Here](#)

ABOUT PAINTINGS

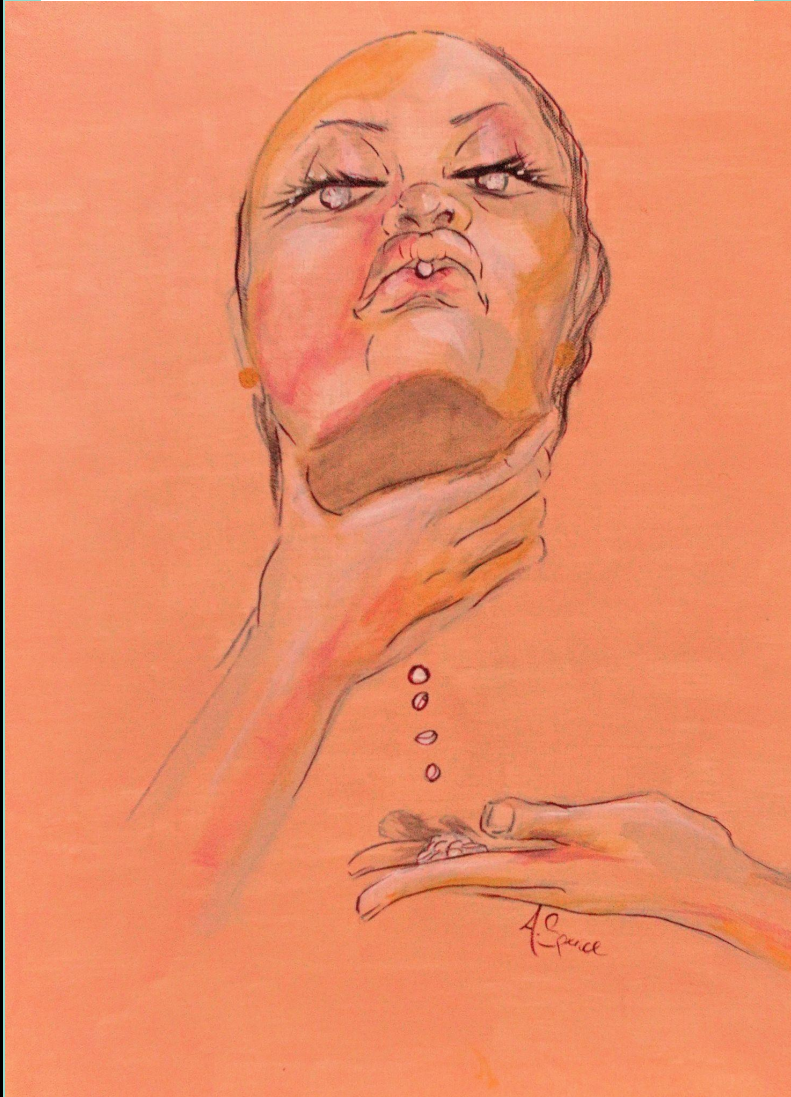
THE ACRYLIC BLACK ART

SUMMARY

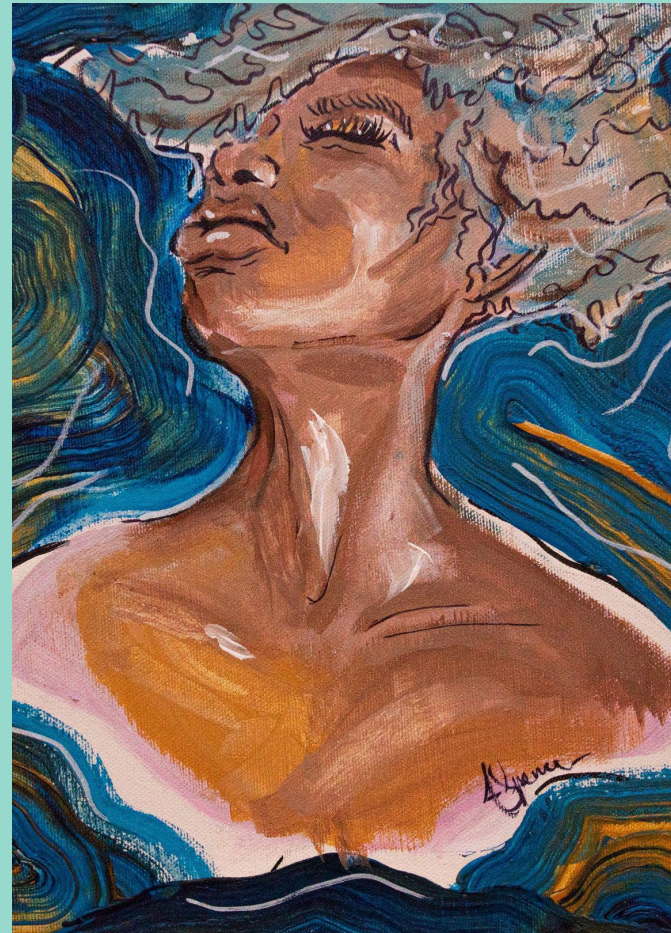
Affrica's still art acrylic paintings offer a unique and profound contribution to this project by seamlessly intertwining themes of mental health with a celebration of Black bodies, particularly those of Black women. Her artwork serves as a powerful representation of the resilience, strength, and grounding energy that Black women have embodied throughout history.

Through her acrylic paintings, Affrica explores the intricate relationship between mental health and the self. She delves into the complex emotions and experiences that individuals, particularly Black women, navigate in their journeys toward self-discovery and healing. Her art provides a visual narrative that invites viewers to reflect on their own mental health while simultaneously celebrating the beauty and power of Black bodies.

AFFRICA'S PAINTINGS



AFFRICA'S PAINTINGS



THIS IS VOETRY ACCOLADES

Voetry sends heartfelt thank yous and gratitude to all the film festivals that have recognized its efforts!



Dreams in
Vantablack
[Click Here](#)

Blindspotting
[Click Here](#)

Def Poetry
Jam
[Click Here](#)



Dreams in Vantablack is an animated, 12-part mini-series. Journeying through the dreams of 12 black youth poets from across the province of Ontario, this short film embodies the experiences of black identity, to explore issues such as bullying, racism, mental health, loss and love.

Casal and Diggs, who pull from backgrounds in poetry and music, imbue the film with a distinctly rhythmic cadence. The poetry of their characters' friendship is a constant refrain. Collin and Miles speak in ciphers; their banter is layered, complex, lyrical. The way the two men wrap language through, around, and between the difficult moments in their lives is at once reflective of their upbringing and of the depth of the traumas they face.

This show is a spoken word poetry television series hosted by Mos Def and airing on HBO between 2002 and 2007. The series features performances by established and up-and-coming spoken word poets.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

THIS IS
VOETRY

VOETRY

So glad I found this page, I'm looking to start something like this too and I'm so glad for the insp

01

COMMENT

@cyndicated_xx

Thank you, this was great reflection for me

03

COMMENT

@jonolim

Love the voicing got that rhythm and beat make it a vibe to listen to

02

COMMENT

@youngrugerturf

THE RECEPTION

VOETRY

I love this. The editing, the music, THE WORDS. I'm so inspired

01

@leegreenn_

COMMENT

I love your work and being part of your poetry movement inspires me to start mine someay too. keep writing beautifully.

03

@papa_pilule

COMMENT

I'm now following you!

02

Wendy Arimah

COMMENT

THE RECEPTION

A PEEK AT THE CREATIVES



RANDELL ADJEI

Randell Adjei is an Author, Inspirational Speaker, Arts Educator and Community Leader who uses the spoken word to empower and transform through Edutainment. He is the founder of one of Toronto's largest and longest running youth led initiatives; Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere (R.I.S.E Edutainment).



DJENABÉ EDOUARD

Djenabé is a New York based freelance photographer/model with a passion for writing, fashion, music and psychology. When she isn't in the city, you can find her on the beach in The Bahamas, or on IG: @visionsofdjenabe



DWAYNE MORGAN

Morgan began his career as a spoken word artist in 1993. He is the founder of Up From The Roots Entertainment, which was established in 1994 to promote the positive artistic contributions of African Canadian and urban influenced artists.



SYDELLIA NDIAYE

Sydellia Ndiaye is an internationally recognized, veteran, recording spoken word artist who received her start in what is considered to be home to some of the world's best slam poets, Chicago. The Senegalese-American artist has been blessed to touch souls all over the world by performing her spoken word pieces/songs in North America, Europe, Africa, several French-Caribbean Islands and virtually.

A PEEK AT THE CREATIVES



GABRIELLE COHEN

Gabrielle is a proud, Black spoken word artist and her work has so far been a depiction of her own life experiences, as well as the lives of those who inspire her - involving mental health, Black power, heartbreak, and self-love. Recognized for her multi-layered poems, Gabrielle began performing original pieces as early as 2017 and has since continued to pursue her passion for poetry into performing for Afro-fest and becoming a 2018 Toronto Poetry Slam team member.



GREG FRANKSON

A. Gregory (Greg) Frankson, OCT, B.Ed. is the founder and CEO of Voice Share Inc., which provides training, presentation, coaching/mentorship, and consulting services focused on transformative organizational change through inclusive leadership and effective communication.



This immersive exhibition will not only offer attendees the opportunity to explore the depths of their own minds but also to connect with others on a profound level through the power of spoken word poetry and visual art. It is my belief that this exhibition will provide a unique and memorable experience for all who attend.

I look forward to the possibility of being a part of this meaningful project and contributing to the exploration of mental health and related themes through the art of Voetry.

Thank you for your consideration.

THANK YOU

FB: VOETRY

INSTA: @THISISVOETRY

INSTA: @byaffrica

SITE: THISISVOETRY.COM