

Valaria Davis Artist Statement

As an artist, I create works from what I see, hear, read, touch or experience personally. Over the past several years, my works have been inspired by the economic, spiritual, and political disparity that I believe is universal to everyone.

My works represent the complexities of living every day life. I believe these complexities are similar to the rings found in a cross section of a tree. Some experiences are harsh, some are pleasant, and others go by so quickly, it's as if nothing happened at all. I believe all of these experiences create the environment that shapes our being.

It is because of this connection with tree rings and one's life experiences that my palate of choice is plywood. I use plywood because it enables me to create these layers. Plywood allows me to differentiate layers using various textures and line gestures. Each layer represents generational life experiences and growth. I create vessels such as boats to represent change in time.

I use figures from the present and the past to help define who we are. Many of these figures are in the forms of faces, some of which are bold and shallow (harsh or indifferent), and some are pleasant. These figures tell stories within the layers of my paintings.

My color palette choices vary to reflect mood; I use bold colors, such as deep blues, purples, and reds to reflect fear, anger, and uncertainty; soft colors such as white, light yellow, light green, and pink to reflect calm and relaxation; bright and vivid colors such as orange, bright reds, gold, bright greens, bright yellows to represent growth and change.

I hope that my art inspires people to think about our disparity and how it impacts our lives. And as a result how we might grow and learn. I am a firm believer that visual arts can impact positive change in our lives and inspire us into action.