My Voice, My Art

by Winsom

For women as a group, and women of colour in particular, it is extremely important for us to recover our lost voices. The voices of our grandmothers, mothers, and daughters, must be heard, seen, and acknowledged. As a visual artist, I try to create an environment where I, as a woman, can freely start to talk about who I am and what I have experienced living in a world dominated by men.

Rape, incest, and violence are all issues that I must allow to come to the canvas. Freeing myself was one thing, claiming ownership of that free self was another. Then the experience of discovering myself—or parts of myself through my writing and visual art—gave me a sense of wonder and delight.

In my work, I deal a lot with spirituality, and the lack of it I see in our world. It is important that I talk about the issues that affect me, but it is equally important for me to celebrate the healing and good things that happen. Therefore many of my art pieces deal with celebration. A few years ago a reviewer said that my work was very good but unlike other Black artists, it was not political. When I met her months later I asked her why she had said my work was not political. Her reply was that it was too happy and not angry, it was a celebration, but she was also very wrong; it was very political. I had gone to another level of consciousness; gone beyond the pain and hurt, reaching out to others, letting them know that I had moved an inch.

In my most recent work “Heads Above the Water Four Aspects” I looked at four central themes: faith, hope, joy and clarity. These represent feelings we’ve all experienced, but at times have forgotten. Through my art I am giving the world a chance to see, reflect, and change, if even for a short time.

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Winsom’s art appears on the front and back cover of this issue.