

## **Maya Freelon Asante - Artist Statement**

In 2005 I discovered a beautiful accident; a stack of water damaged tissue paper tucked away in my grandmother's basement was left with a brilliant and intricate stain. Since then I've submerged myself in the medium of bleeding tissue paper sculpture and tissue ink monoprints, which exist as simultaneously transient and steadfast. This dichotomy continues to intrigue and surprise me as I wrestle with sharing the unique beauty, fragility, and strength of my art with the world.

Much like my grandmother (Queen Mother Frances J. Pierce), who never wasted a single grain of rice on her plate, I find a way to utilize tissue paper at every stage of creation - including the rich and colorful ink released when the paper is wet, the sculptural mounds formed when creating monoprints, and even the tiny ripped pieces no larger than a fingernail which are collected and wound into spiral sculptures. Improvisation and discovery play a big role in my creative process; by incorporating archival photographs I'm able to reappropriate images, bridging a gap between the past and future.

My grandmother always said she "made a way out of no way" and her personal endurance opened a path for my own creative discovery. Art for me is about finding the message in the medium and honoring what fuels our desire to preserve and protect it. Bringing more peace, joy and light into the world is my primary objective, while simultaneously appreciating the beauty of now and creating everlasting memories.