

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

September 2019

LYDIA MAKEPEACE
www.LydiaMakepeace.com



This September the Fat Canary Journal features the work of a New Orleans urban sketcher and social justice artist, Lydia Makepeace, specifically showcasing her latest series "Affirm Black Women", which celebrates the long ignored contributions of Black American Women. Makepeace's powerful, direct portraits acknowledge the legacy of these women, and what they achieved- in all fields- to affect society, and leave their imprint on it. Her statement about this body of work is honest and self-questioning, and perhaps asks that we too, stop and reflect on our own notions of race in America. Her subjects stare directly at us- gently asking that we consider why so many questions still remain unanswered, and why so many sections of America still refuse to accept the notion of equality among the races. There is no anger portrayed. Simply -the intelligence, dignity and beauty of Ms Makepeace's subjects meet our gaze and shine through.



ARTIST STATEMENT

Communicating visually allows me to tap into my boldest, most courageous, and honest self. I can express views and emotions through creative work that I might not have the ability or confidence to articulate verbally. Color is a dominant feature found throughout my work, and paint the primary medium. Art making is a cathartic process through which I often explore dark and complex subject matter, touching on issues such as mental illness and social justice. It is my hope to inspire and enlighten others with what I discover along the way.



AFFIRM BLACK WOMEN PORTRAIT SERIES

It started with a creative challenge, then a call to action...

Now it is the most life-changing, mind altering, eye opening work I have ever undertaken.

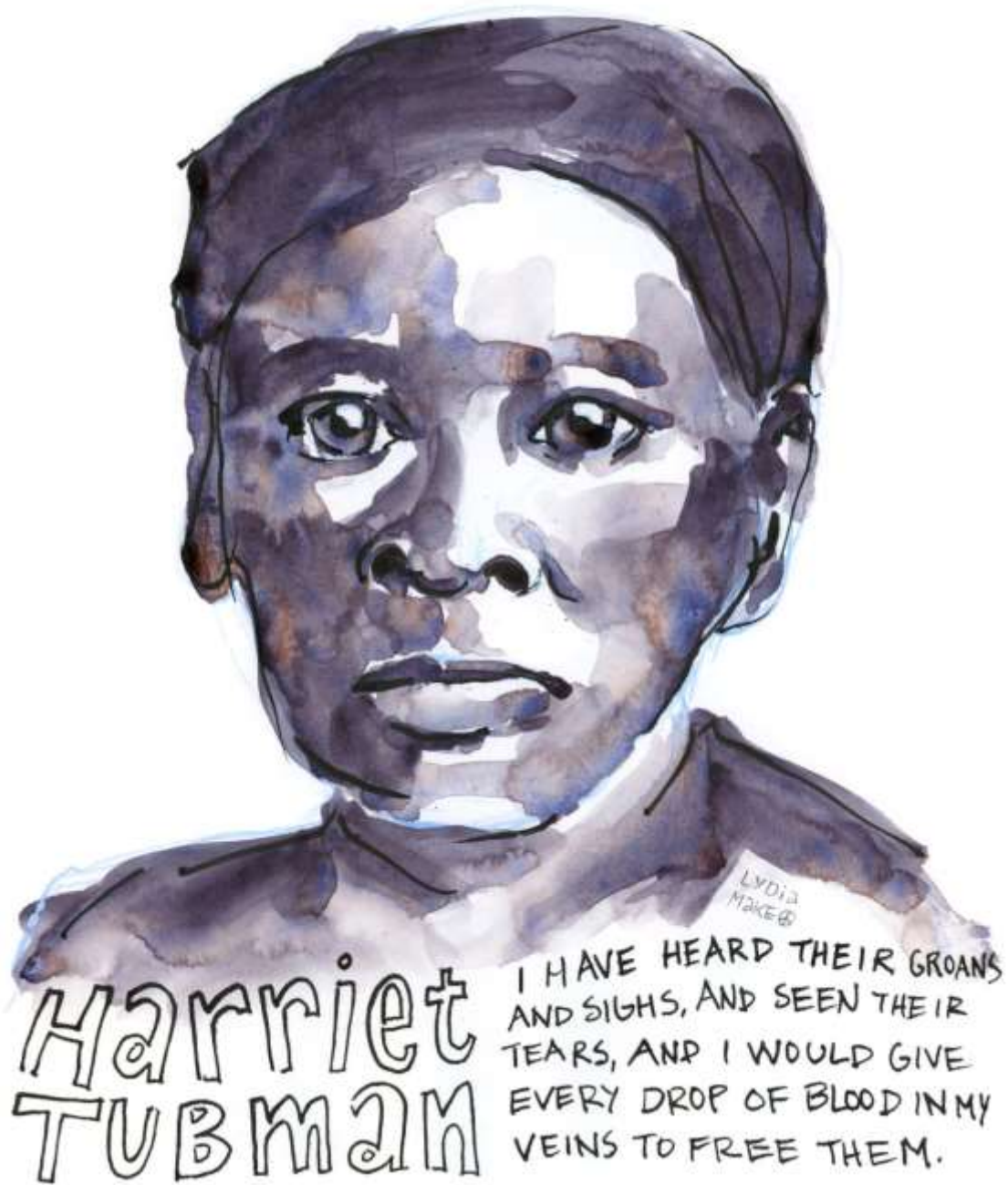
I am a white woman living in a country that has never confronted its continued legacy of white supremacy. It is something I've been comfortably ignorant of for far too long. I am working to change that and this series is a facet of that work.





To quote Malcom X, "The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black woman." Black women in this country are more likely to die in childbirth, be victims of domestic abuse, and live in crushing poverty, than their white counterparts. Their achievements and contributions are so often overlooked, or worse -erased from our history.

This series is my education, a way to share and highlight the work of Black women and their worlds. They are poets, writers, feminists, activists, sex workers, chefs, and artists. They are extraordinary and the world must know it.









LYDIA MAKEPEACE

Instagram @LydiaMakepeace and Twitter @LydiaMakes

Education

2006 BA Visual Communications, Judson University, Elgin, IL

2005 New York Center for Art & Media Studies, New York, NY

2015 Petite Pursuits, Watson Gallery, Naples Art Association, Naples, FL

2006 Pak'd, Draewell Gallery, Judson University, Elgin, IL

2005 Off the Curb, NYCAMS Gallery, New York, NY

Collections

Works held in private and public international collections throughout the United States, Australia, and Europe

Print Publications

Death & Prom, Ladies Night Anthology, 2014

Blog Features

Chad Dickerson, Etsy CEO: How Net Neutrality Shaped My Life, Backchannel. Feb 20, 2015. www.medium.com/backchannel/etsy-ceo-how-net-neutrality-shaped-my-lifec6d53cdc79d2

Julia Hendrickson, Paint Palette Series: Lydia Makepeace, Julia Hendrickson Blog. Nov 26, 2014. www.juliahendrickson.com/blog/lydia-makepeace

Publications as Author

What the F*ck?!, Self Published Zine, 2006

Awards

Selected as the permanent artwork to be featured on the International Society for Bipolar Disorders' prestigious Kupfer-Frank Distinctive Contribution award.
www.isbd.org/awards-isbd-kupfer-frank-distinctive-contribution-award

