

Natalie Jackson and Woman Made Gallery

My name is Natalie Jackson and I'm a photographer in Peoria, Illinois. I first discovered Woman Made Gallery when it was located on Milwaukee Ave. I was there to photograph



another artist's work who had been juried into an amazing fiber art exhibit. I was blown away by the art, the staff, and the beautiful gallery space itself. It became my goal to be juried into an exhibit in such a magical space, as it was apparent that they truly valued a woman's voice. I have since been honored to be juried into several of their

exhibits including, *Is There a Mother in the House*, *Language of the Voiceless*, *Woman Life Freedom* and many more. All were very bold shows with extremely talented artists. With my artwork, I tell stories of Black Women and our Beauty, Strength, and Resilience.

Woman Made Gallery gives me the freedom to share my pain, fears, strengths, and my triumphs. They truly elevate women and non-binary artists to a position where we can share our powerful and thought-provoking work with the world. I am able to show Women just how beautiful we are. It's so important to have a safe space where you not only see yourself represented but are also allowed to voice opinions and share in the issues that make people most uncomfortable. That's freedom...to create without fear! And WMG promotes just that! I commend WMG for continuing to uphold their vision of

ensuring equal placement of women's art in the world and wish them many more years of success! Thank you to the Board and Staff for all you do!

These 1964 lyrics by Nina Simone illustrate the importance of reflections and representation.

Images

*She does not know her beauty
She thinks her brown glory
She thinks her brown body has no glory
If she could dance naked under palm trees
And see her image in the river she would know
Yes, she would know
But there are no palm trees in the street
No palm trees in the street
And dishwater gives back no images*

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