

“The Black Interior” ***Glyneisha Johnson, 2019***



Through collage, Glyneisha Johnson explores Black culture through domestic interior spaces and public Black spaces related to home. The spaces evaluate the public vs. private nature of Black identity. “The Black Interior” is a safe, creative, and healing space for Black people that “helps us envision what we are not meant to envision: complex black selves, real and enactable black power, rampant and unfetishized black beauty,” wrote the poet and scholar Elizabeth Alexander. Highlighting spaces such as the kitchen, bus stop, and front porch, *The Black Interior* creates a nostalgia for a past and present that never existed. Adorned with decorative artifacts that are synonymous with black culture, spiritual motifs, and referential figures the spaces reflect the culture that resides there.

“Beyond the public face of stereotype and limited imagination.”

Meet the Artist!



A multimedia artist, currently living and working in Kansas City, MO. Johnson completed her Bachelors of Fine Art in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2017. Johnson has exhibited in various solo and group exhibitions in and around Kansas City. Johnson’s work has been recently added to the collection of The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Through collage, painting, and drawing, Glyneisha Johnson’s work echoes nodes of black culture and her experience of being raised in Dallas, TX. Her work acknowledges the importance of Black domestic interior spaces while using collage as a metaphor to describe an imaginative vision of black life.

Safe Spaces

Glyneshia Johnson's work explores the concept of safe spaces for Black people. This activity invites you to create a personalized safe space in your life for your own use.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/the-black-interior>

Suggested Items:

Stuffed animals

Blankets

Favorite books

Happy photos

Scented Candles

Snacks

Cozy clothes

Empowering costumes

Artwork

Inspiring quotes

Music or Musical instruments

Journals

Sketchbooks



A safe space is an environment where you can relax and feel comfortable being your authentic self. It's a special place you can go when things become difficult, or when you need time alone to unwind. Having safe spaces is super important to one's wellbeing.

1. Identify if there's a special spot in your home that could serve as your safe space. This could be a corner of a room, a closet, or any other little bit of space.
2. Use the following questions to reflect on your safe space.
 - What makes you feel safe?
 - What sensory things make you feel comfortable? (Think of sounds, smells, tastes, textures, and sights.)
 - When will you use your safe space?
 - How will you communicate to others the importance of your safe space?
3. Get permission to gather items for your safe space and begin to arrange your new space. Refer to the list of suggested items to help curate your space.
4. Enjoy your new safe space!