

# Artist Statement

*My art is my soul sanctuary.*

It's in those solitary quiet spaces where I most often find myself, that my soul feels brave enough to speak. And my soul speaks poetry.

I find freedom when I write. This place, freedom, is where my wildness takes center stage and my weirdness makes sense. Writing reveals my truest self; who I am... who I'm becoming. Without apology, pretenses, or shame. When I write, I am free to just be.

So, naturally my work is intense, lyrical, sensual, passionate and paradoxically layered. I enjoy marrying topics and ideas that don't seem to readily go together. Like the sacred and the sensual; the profound and the profane; or simply embracing the need to be seriously silly. My poetry professes that normal is overrated and far less interesting than writing your own rules!

This tenacity to write myself raw at all costs, challenges the once uninspired to initiate their own soul searches. Thus, I offer my poetry as both a refuge and release.

My stories are shelter for those still afraid of the secrets the silence bears. These soulful spaces also show them the power of vulnerability. I invite my audience deep into the portal of my desires to better echo and understand their own.

My poems, in fact, are mini voyages that incite word connoisseurs and the sapiosexually curious to bravely self-explore with/alongside/through me! My writing style frequently uses descriptive, sensory language to transform my thoughts and feelings into vivid, mutually shareable experiences.

You can see, hear, feel, smell and taste my words!

# Artist Statement

The content I create comes alive as each piece flows with a musicality that provocatively moves readers/listeners. Writing and performing poetry reminds me to consistently own my uniqueness. Only by listening to the wild whims of my soul am I inspired to create epic works of art that lead to the greatest sense of joy. I hope my soul stories inspire others to reconnect with themselves in ways that are equally as healing and empowering.

- Jaiye Empress