

SEVENTH WARD SPEAKS

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MY OWN LIFE HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH A SERIES OF understandings about who I am. We live in these two worlds, two cultures—a Eurocentric culture and an African-based culture. The two don't always mesh. When I was young, I made these paintings of crushed pepsi cola and coke cans with tree branches coming out of them. They became very symbolic to me—this crushed can of where I was, but life still coming out. Over time, I began to recognize who I was: an African American, a male, a father, a teacher—those pivotal moments were part of the making of my art form. The structure.

At Xavier University's Art Department, we look at how community affects the artist. How can we help young people understand that being an artist is not just a skill. It's not just learning how to draw or paint, but also how you talk about who you are in a community.



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For more information about the Porch call, 504-312-2701 or 713-504-6267.