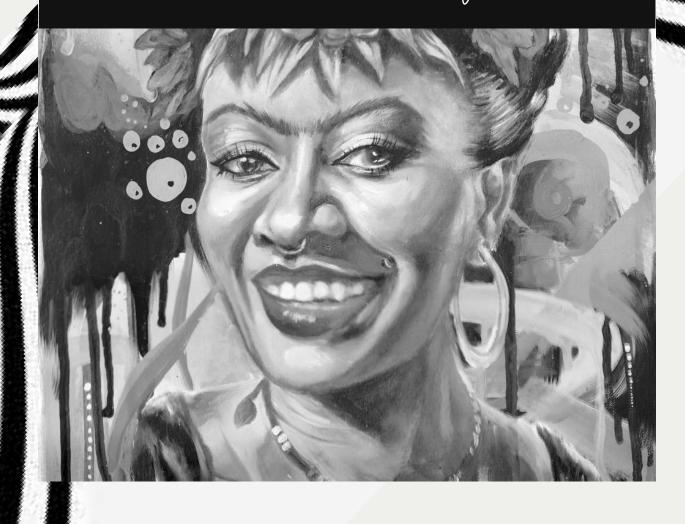
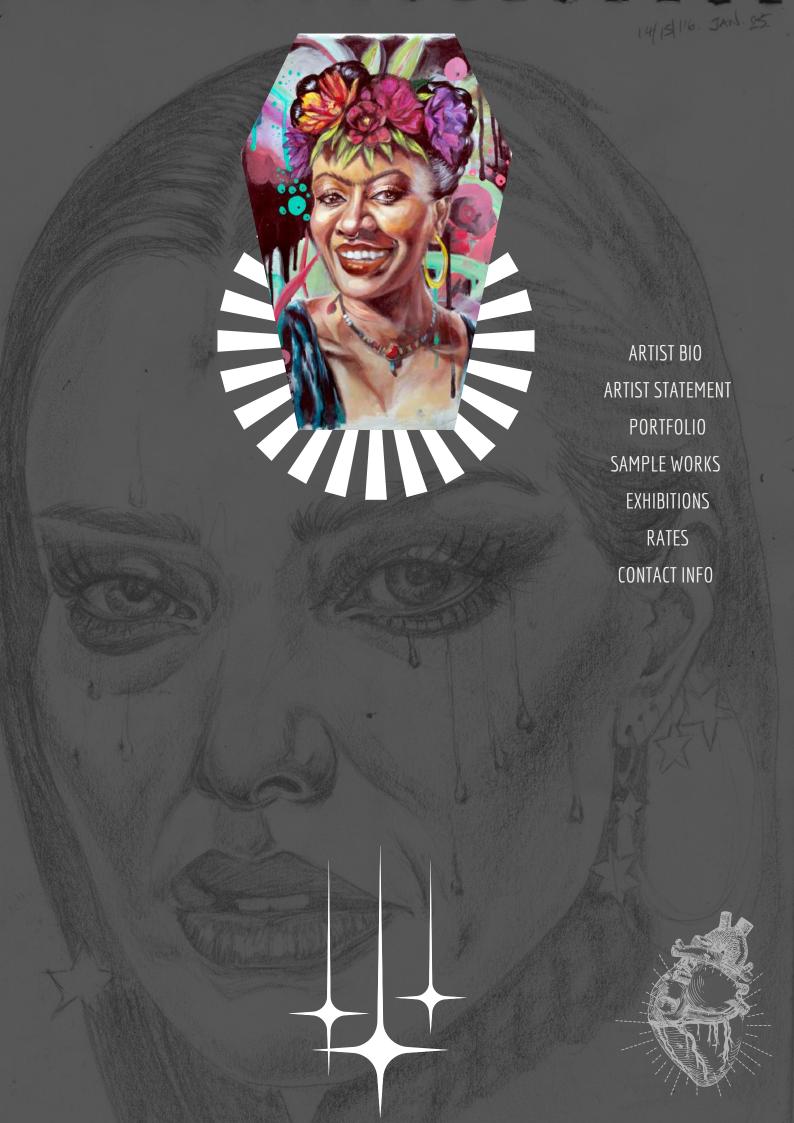
MCDARKART

Lakisha McQuany





ARTIST Bio

I am a contemporary figurative artist based in Ipswich, UK, conjuring portraits and pop surreal landscapes in acrylic and oil. Rooted in folklore, the occult, and dream logic, my work slips between tradition and rebellion—melding old-world techniques with raw, symbolic storytelling. I paint dark characters, haunted spaces, and the quiet pull between being and becoming. Lately, I've turned toward the post-pandemic world, exploring graffiti, myth, and the lives that slip between the cracks.

.. AND THE LONG VERSION

McDarkart, the creative alias of Lakisha McQuany, is a neo-surrealist artist and illustrator based in Ipswich, UK. Raised in a family steeped in creativity, she grew up immersed in classic films, literature, and visual art. Her early exposure to storytelling and symbolism laid the foundation for a practice that blends the strange and the sacred, the playful and the profound.

Lakisha works primarily in oil and acrylic but regularly experiments with a wide range of materials, including pastels, charcoal, and unconventional surfaces. Her art explores themes drawn from folklore, the occult, fetish and goth subcultures, retro kitsch, and antique aesthetics. Philosophical and subconscious elements thread through her imagery, often asking unspoken questions about faith, the unknown, and the spaces between people.

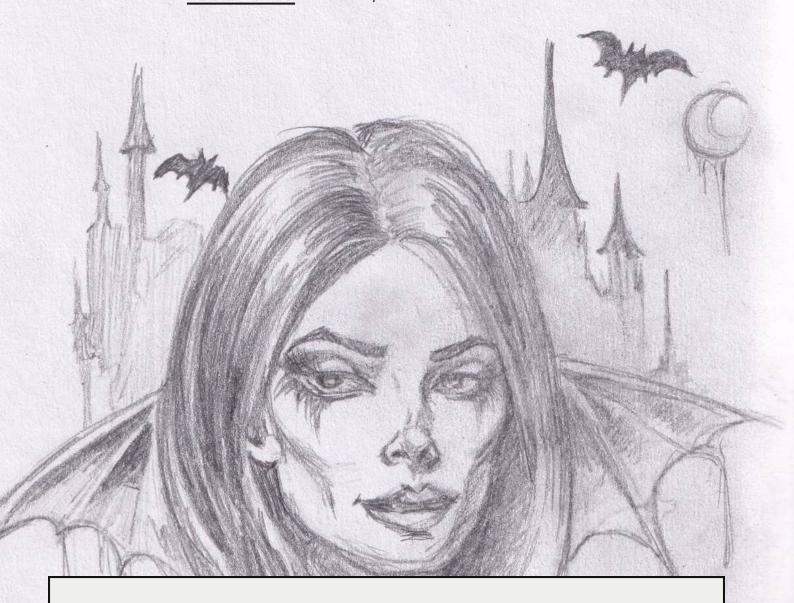
Rather than adhering to a single style, Lakisha approaches each piece as an exploration, fusing traditional techniques—often inspired by Old Masters—with surreal pop motifs and raw, intuitive mark-making. Her work is emotionally charged yet playful, often conjuring dark characters, strange landscapes, and symbols that linger just out of reach.

In recent years, she has begun translating her visual language onto found objects and unexpected canvases—from butcher cleavers and handsaws to flags, ammo boxes, and skateboards. She dreams of painting a surfboard, then pushing into large-scale murals and public art.

Her evolving style is shaped by a deep curiosity, a love for subcultures, and the mysterious quiet of staring into the void. Every piece reflects a tug between history and rebellion, structure and chaos, the visible world and what lies beneath it.

Lakisha continues to develop her artistic practice in Ipswich, where she is building a body of work that is both beautiful and unsettling—art that invites viewers to look closer, think deeper, and feel something unexpected.

07.01.2025



ARTIST Statement

McDarkart is a neo-surrealist artist whose vivid, symbolic paintings explore themes of life, death, dreams, and folklore. Drawing from retro pop culture, occultism, mythology, and her own heritage, she creates strange, thought-provoking works using traditional oil techniques with a surreal twist. Based in Ipswich, her art blends the mystical and the personal — inviting viewers into a world that's part memory, part magic, and always a little mischievous.

ARTIST BIO - ARTIST STATEMENT - PORTFOLIO / SAMPLE WORKS - EXHIBITIONS - RATES - CONTACT INFO

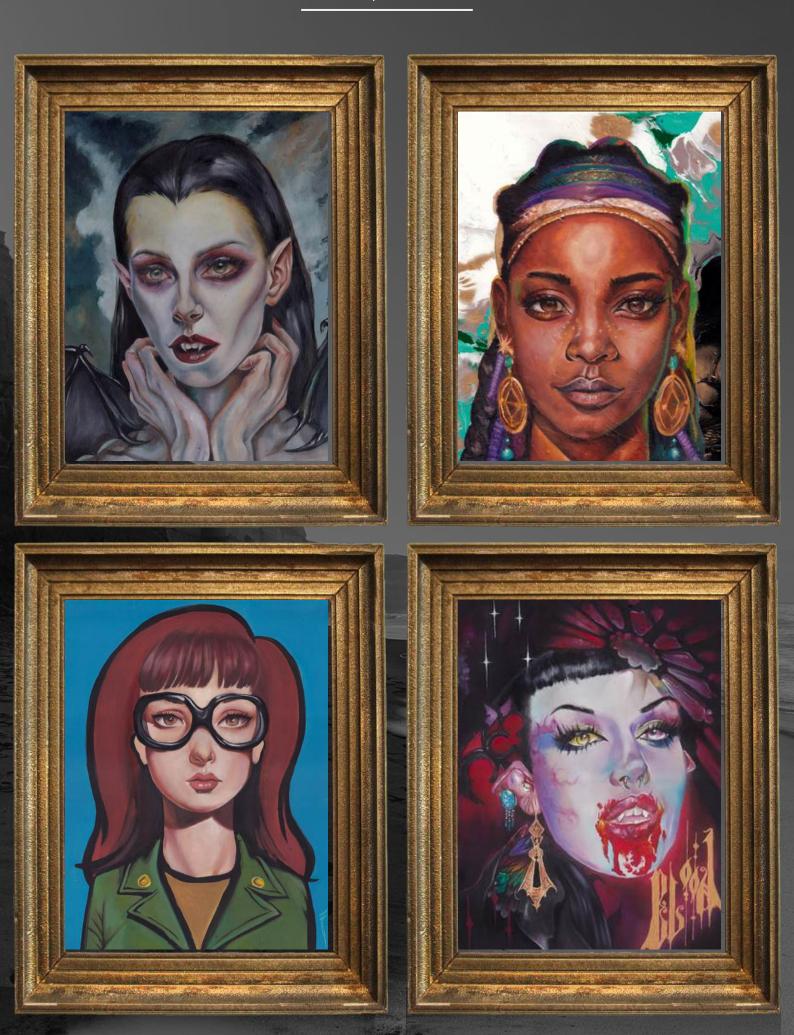


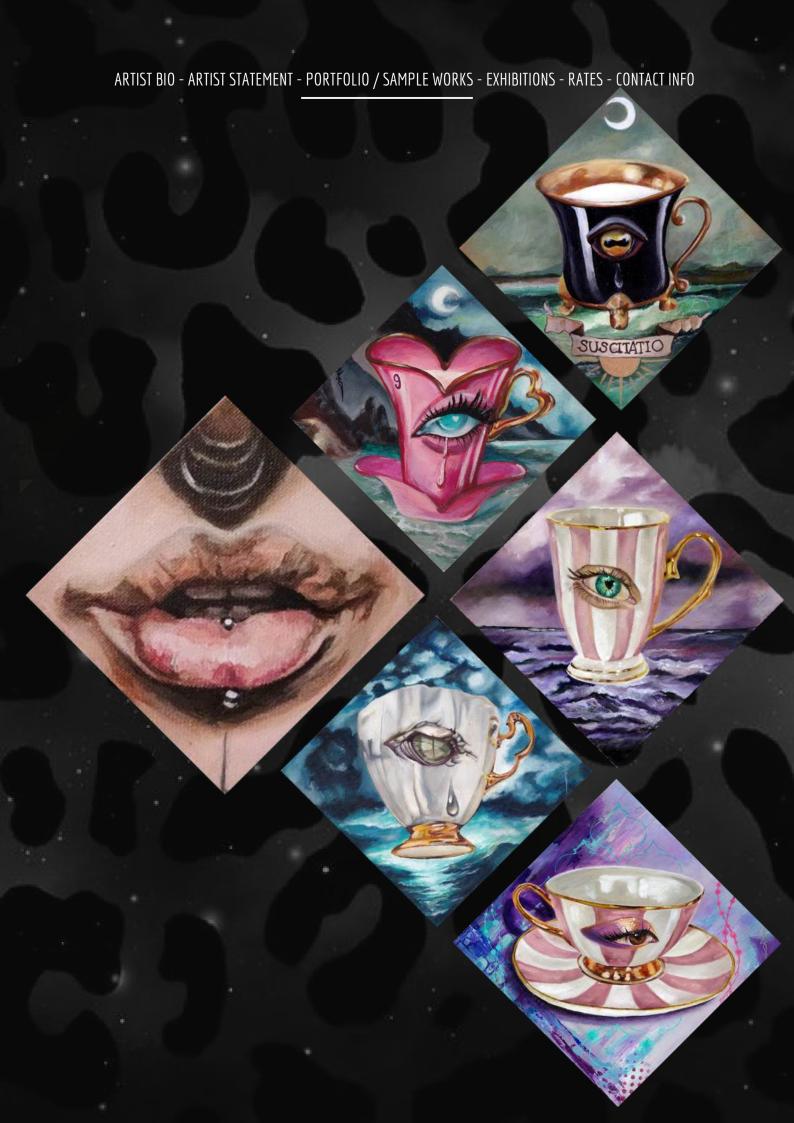
I create because I have to. Since childhood, art has been my lifeblood — drawing and painting were never just hobbies, but ways to translate what I feel and understand. I'm never far from a canvas or sketchpad, and if I'm not painting, I'm researching, dreaming, or letting new stories take root. My work is a reflection of how I digest the world — it's the tool I use to make sense of the strange, the sacred, and the seen.

Recurring themes like birth, life, and death are central to what I do, but they often arrive in disguise — filtered through childhood memories, occult symbology, pagan myth, and dream logic. I'm inspired by folklore, retro pop culture, mysticism, and the hidden histories of my heritage, especially the rich folklore of Barbados. These threads weave through my paintings as symbols, vivid colour choices, and strange yet familiar motifs that challenge viewers to look closer.

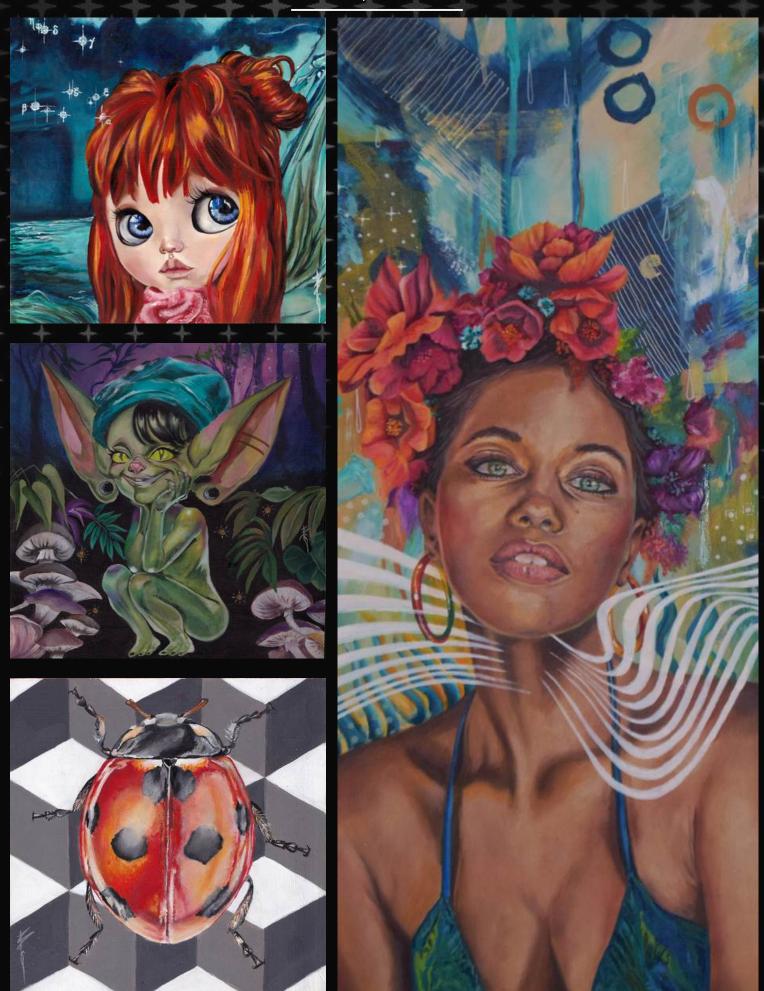
Oil painting is at the heart of my practice. I avoided it for years, fearing its complexity, but since 2016 it has become my obsession — the missing link. I often use traditional techniques in homage to the old masters, merging them with surreal and intuitive methods that allow my work to evolve mid-process. Each piece begins with spiritual curiosity and ends somewhere between chaos and meditation.

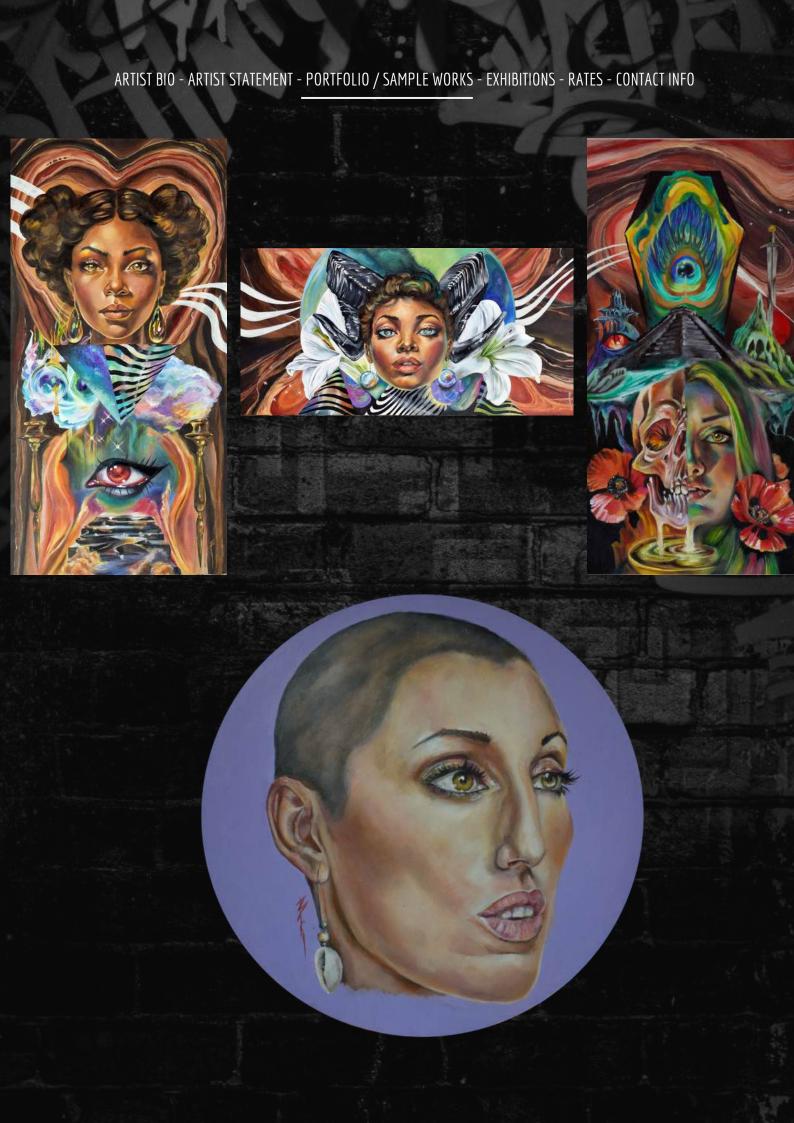
There's no single message I try to impose. If my work makes someone feel, think, or question — even for a moment — I've done my job. As an emerging artist, I know I exist on the edges of the mainstream art world, but I see that as a strength. My work is a challenge to what fits and what doesn't. If it could talk, it would probably say something funny, then something strange, then something rude — just as the viewer was about to leave.





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PAST Exhibitions

2025

Cult Group Show - Belfast

2024

Cult Group Show - Edingburgh

Cult Group Show - Braehead

202?

Virtual art show Tebbs Gallery - Mother

Virtual art show Tebbs Gallery - Time

202I

Debut Art Show with Josh Husdon - Ipswich



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