

Trace

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Mickalene Thomas

Brooklyn

Describe your work?

My paintings and photography oscillates between the romantic notion of painting and engages conversation around art history as it relates to the positioning of African-American women. Celebrating female beauty and power. I like to think of myself as a visual thinker, a shape-shifter, an innovator, and my work is unpredictably consistent.

What's your take on the climate of the contemporary art world?

Lots of people are making art and lots of people are buying art!

Do you have a specific playlist you listen to while working?

It depends on the mood of the day: NPR, Marva Whitney, Betty Davis, Mary J. Blige, Eartha Kitt, Nina Simone, NPR, Valerie Simpson, Edie Brickell, Etta James, Lyn Collins, NPR, Wendy Williams 107.5 (6-7pm), Whitney Houston, and Koko Taylor.

Do you work best in the day or night?

At the moment I would say daytime. I enjoy waking up knowing that I'm headed to my studio. I feel I have more time to develop a body of work. However, there are days when I find myself going to the studio at 11 pm and/or sometimes 3am. It's a beautiful feeling to think that the world is sleeping while your making a masterpiece.