

JANEL CRANDALL, ARTIST STATEMENT:

ONE QUOTE FROM MALCOLM X CAME TO MIND FOR MY SKETCHBOOK AS OF LATE, "THE MOST DISRESPECTED PERSON IN AMERICA IS THE BLACK WOMAN. THE MOST UNPROTECTED PERSON IN AMERICA IS THE BLACK WOMAN. THE MOST NEGLECTED PERSON IN AMERICA IS THE BLACK WOMAN." I JUST THINK ABOUT HOW WE ARE NOT SEEN FOR WHO WE ARE BUT FOR WHAT WE HAVE OR CAN DO. ABOUT BODIES THAT ARE COVETED ON EVERYONE THAT IS NOT A BLACK WOMAN. ABOUT HAIRSTYLES AND FASHION THAT IS NOTICED ON A LIGHTER SKIN. ABOUT HOW WE ARE ENTERTAINMENT AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T OFFEND PEOPLE. MY SKIN IS OFTEN MADE POLITICAL BUT THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS. I WANT TO TRY AND CREATE WORK THAT ALLOWS ME TO BE SEEN AS ME. A BLACK WOMAN. I'VE BEEN DOING SOME DRAWINGS BASED OFF OF THIS THEME AND A SONG CALLED BROWN-SKIN GIRL BY BEYONCÉ. A SONG THAT CELEBRATES WHAT I WANT TO CONVEY. I'M TRYING TO CAPTURE THAT LOST/ UNSEEN MAGIC. A LOT OF MY RECENT WORK HAS BEEN ABOUT IDENTITY AND THIS WORK IS CONTINUING THAT EXPLORATION.