

Artist Profile: Mankwe Ndosi

Written by Abeni Hill



Artist/musician Mankwe Ndosi strives to connect people to the community and to the Earth through her work as a cultural worker.

Ndosi's work focuses on the creative expression and practice.

"The exercise of creativity helps people learn more about themselves and feel more a part of the world and the universe," said Ndosi. "It helps people to be proud and clear about their own story."

Ndosi works with many art communities throughout the United States and the world including within the Twin Cities, Chicago and Arusha, Tanzania.

"I ask myself what should my work be for," said Ndosi, who felt the need to create something that made an impact on and benefited others. "I felt the pressure to do something to make something."

Ndosi was inspired by her father's self-made mission to come to America to be successful.

Ndosi's father was employed at Augsburg as an Economics Professor. He also served as the head of the International Students' Association in the late 60's when he was enrolled as a grad student. The album's name is "Science and Spirit." "He brought people from Japan and different countries of Africa to host them in the house," said Ndosi.

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According to the artist, these interactions with people from all over the world have molded her to work as a culture worker and inspired her artwork.

"I am inspired by the environment," said Ndosì, who said she is inspired specifically by the people in her life, such as her grandmother and mother.

Ndosì, whose album, "Science and Spirit" was released in 2012, hopes to relieve the world from prejudice through her works and to guide them, "past a place of exclusion, materialism, and racism and into the possibility of being appreciative of the beautiful garden that we were birthed into."

The musician said she admires other musicians such as Nina Simone and Erykah Badu for their passion for music and making a difference. "I like them because they are creative and are speaking to society, and talking about situation at the moment.

"Most people describe my music as soul or R&B," said Ndosì. "It is very rhythmic and has lots of harmony."

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