

## **Jason Innocent Artist Statement**

As artists we have the responsibility to promote social change.

Growing up in poverty and with a dysfunctional family wasn't necessarily a bad thing. I had strong motivation to do better and strive for more. A strong mother kept us focusing on moving forward, and temptation out of our environment.

My work is political. While I want the viewer to have a good time, they also need to feel uncomfortable. Strategically arranging this balance can be difficult, along with maintaining the appropriate echos of culture within the piece to activate change.

From street art (graffiti) to business school at CUNY I've learned to bet on myself, allow everyday life to inspire my work, and strive for independence.

Bringing race, language, and contemporary society into the conversation in an intuitive and natural way; my conceptual artwork tie together interconnected themes across mediums attuned to the modern viewer.

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Jason Innocent lives and works in Brooklyn. Inspired by the black experience, his socially charged work has been on exhibition and in publication since 2016.