



## **ARTISTIC STATEMENT**

Being raised in one culture and to live in an entirely different culture has trained me to be agile, and adaptable, as well as excellent at decoding and performing different cultural scripts. I find honesty in my work through the range of my relationships-from communicating with the *Imam* at my local mosque to designing a drag show poster for a drag queen friend. This transfers into my work as a multidisciplinary artist.

The pillars of my work are activism, humility, respect, and resiliency. My work is personal.

Through activism, I represent truth, honor, and respect. I attempt to wear the neutral mask through each discipline. My photography speaks of simplicity, joy, and liberation. My artwork questions norms through humor and unorthodox imagery. My Islamic veil allows my art to speak to a minority with equality and empathy. My art advocates humanism.

I Know Nothing. I share that with collaborators because it brings out transparency in the process. I try to radiate humility to break down my own personal defensiveness and to become a more open artist. Humility allows me to connect on an intrinsic level with people, allowing me to understand beyond what is readily apparent.

I believe that respect is the seed of effective dialogue, storytelling, and progress. Respect is constantly earned and must be continually given in any relationship and work of art.

I'm not perfect. My work is not perfect. That is okay. Perfection isn't a destination; resiliency is the journey. Failing, experimenting, and forever trying is where true artistic colors, shapes begin to shape and form.

I hope people find belonging in my work.

I hope they relate.

I hope they share.

I hope we inspire each other.

I hope we are present for each other.