

Kelly
Harris-
DeBerry

ARTIST STATEMENT



POET

WRITER

CURATOR

SOUND MAKER

TEACHER

kellyhd.com

I am unapologetic about threading Black aesthetics into my formal training as a writer. I publish via print, performance, audio, video and breath. I am a mixed-media literary artist. My primary genre is poetry. I've also written blues, songs, prayers, rap, nursery rhymes, essays, and articles. I am fascinated with language—its rhythm, the way it sounds, the way it looks, the way it functions in culture/society. As a poet, I am always exploring language possibilities on and off the page. Motherhood completely changed my approach to writing because I was able to witness firsthand the beginning of a person's language journey. Words come to us through movement and sound first. I try (and fail sometimes) to make play/improvisation a tool to free my hands on the page. In grad school, I was criticized heavily for writing by ear. Today I feel it is one of my writing superpowers.