

Lakeema Matthew

Our Lost Roots, 2022

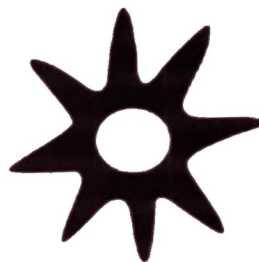
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 in.

This piece portrays the concept of life's contribution to this earth plane simultaneously in a subconscious realm of reality and in a conscious present-day reality. Multiple West African Adinkra symbols have been incorporated in the piece to add more depth to the message of our roots not being lost or forgotten, however, a positive stand of hope. Despite the deceased being disturbed and disrespected with the building atop the sacred burial grounds that numerous melanated people lay to rest.

The 8 point stars called Nsoromma, in the night sky means 'child of the heavens and guardianship' these stars are the souls and guardians of the deceased or lost souls that are not forgotten in the cycle of life. Also depicted in the piece is an adinkra symbol within the roots of the tree called Nyame Dua, meaning "tree of god/God's protection and presence". The trees roots act as an umbilical cord attached to the placenta of Mother Earth to the deceased life beneath the life above ground. The last adinkra symbol in the piece is hidden within the sign it's called Nyame Biribi Wo Soro, meaning God is in the heavens and hope. The flowing tree leaves, and the ground represents the ancestors and souls of the past shining brightly. The eye represents, the moon has eyes; what happens in the dark shall come to light. We see, we know, we do matter. Ultimately the essence of this art piece is one that is a positive forward-looking reality of the cycle of life remembering the history of the past in today's present.



NYAME DUA
TREE OF GOD
GOD'S PROTECTION & PRESENCE



NSOROMMA
GUARDIANSHIP
CHILD OF THE HEAVENS



NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO
HOPE
GOD IS IN THE HEAVENS