Jordan Casteel – Portraiture

1. **Why do artists make portraits? What purposes do portraits serve, beyond offering visual representations of a person or group?**

Portraits are often used to commemorate something or someone, they can show their significance and show meaning to particular idea or event. Whether on minimal or hyperbolic scale, portraits help other people understand and visualize ideas an artist has. I find that portraits help represent the soul and mind as a physical vessel.

1. **What makes a community?**

A community is made up of people, often from different backgrounds, that share common interests or characteristics. They are able to coexist together as they have built an environment in which people can achieve things together.

1. **What are the “communities” that you interact with/belong to?**

My groups of friends, family, and the Filipino community.

1. **As you view the portraits featured in this video. What kinds of things strike you or resonate with you?**

Jordan’s reasoning for painting mostly Black men was very interesting to me. She wanted to show the misrepresentation of them throughout history. She also revealed nude portraits which did not include the genitalia so the pieces would not be sexualized.

1. **How would you describe Casteel’s community? List some words that may describe the communities that she engages with in the video.**

Communities Casteel engages with are her friends, family, other artists or people in her exhibitions, and the Black communities around New City. Some words to describes the communities are diverse, experienced, misunderstood, and motivational.

1. **In Casteel’s paintings, what do the bodies and gestures convey?**

Casteel made the bodies and gestures of the Black men in a way where they were more humanized compared to historical paintings and events in which they were often criminalized and sexualized.

1. **Describe and compare your reactions to Casteel’s portraits of nude models and to those of clothed models. How does each set of portraits tell different stories?**

With the clothed models, I just saw people going through their everyday lives. However, the nude models gave a different vibe, it showed people’s vulnerability and sensitivity more than the clothed models.