

Biography

Kiarra Walker is a sophomore majoring in child development. She is a writer and scholar whose work explores the intersections of race, education, memory, and identity. She writes from her lived experience; interrogating institutional structures and the often-unspoken ways power operates within them. Centering Black life, resistance, and intellectualism, Walker engages poetry as both a critical and creative practice, documenting and questioning the world. Walker's work is particularly concerned with the emotional and psychological landscapes shaped by exclusion, as well as the resilience cultivated in response.

Artist Statement

“Women of the Blue Tree” comes from my experience within a college program shaped by racial imbalance, where authority was largely held by white women. The poem reflects the dissonance between the institution's stated values and its lived reality.

The poem traces how racism can manifest in interpersonal ways, through tone and expectation. This piece is not only about harm but also about awareness. It seeks to name what is often left unnamed and to challenge the normalization of these experiences in academic spaces. Through this work, I reclaim narrative authority, transforming personal experience into a site of critique, reflection, and resistance.