

ARTIST MENTORSHIP PROGRAM with ruby onyinyechi amanze

I witness. I affirm. I instigate. I support.

October 15th - 20th Intake [Virtual]

Weeks of October 19th and 26th - In person at G.A.S. or virtual

Week of November 2nd - Virtual

Exact dates TBD and subject to change

This one month mentorship is designed to provide 1:1 support for those called to and on the Artist Path [to whatever degree...including, just beginning]. Existing in the life of being an artist, are both complex and simple frameworks, systems and practices. Post [and often even, during] any formal education programs, artists may find themselves generally alone and having to figure things out for themselves, as there is no blueprint available. Also factoring in societal, cultural and familial misconceptions of what it means to be an artist, many artists go into their *becoming* with a non or poorly affirmed and supported foundation. This can take a toll and a lot of energy may be spent learning how to counter the external noise and solidify the truth you feel inside - while *also* developing an artistic practice. This mentorship offers an intimate caring space to do hands-on, self-directed, yet guided inquiry and development on many facets of what it looks like to live as an artist.

Since this is a highly personalized mentorship, the specifics of our work together will vary from one individual to the next. During the initial intake, we will loosely map out our subsequent sessions and areas of focus [all subject to change based on flow]. Below is a list of sample topics we may cover during our time:

- * What does it mean to be an artist? How can we anchor in and hone that calling + embodied practice? Why is what we do important? What does artistic integrity look like?
- * Studio practice evolving through Play, Curiosity and Experimentation
- * The Role of Research
- * Art as Service
- * Building a working Map of Reference [to contextualize your work in larger conversations]
- * The Art of Language - refining your written voice
- * Goal setting and creating a studio schedule that works
- * Self-identifying any possible shifts or expansions that you're ready to embody
- * Uncovering and cleaning up [releasing] any contradictory messaging, patterns and behaviors
- * Lots and lots of magical aka expansive thinking
- * Weirdness affirmation and practices that strengthen inner fortitude and resilience
- * Returning to Joy and/or Holding Joy as the Center
- * Reviewing and editing graduate school, residency and grant applications

PROGRAM FORMAT

- * One intake session [virtual] to learn more about your artist story and map out areas to focus on [i.e. language development, confidence building, portfolio preparation etc.]
- * Four, 1:1 personalized sessions [2 virtual and 2 in person]. **One session per week.**
- * The option to have a critique of current or still resonant, work [work must have been made within the past two years]
- * Mentees will receive a recommended reading list and supporting materials as deemed helpful
- * Open email communication

WHAT'S **NOT** INCLUDED

- * Formal instruction of any art techniques - For example, I will not teach you “how to draw”
- * Introductions to galleries or explicit career advice
- * Superficial cheerleading and hand holding

WHO CAN APPLY:

Those **consciously living as artists***, regardless of education, age or any career aspirations.

*Those who have consciously embraced art as an integral part of who they are, what they do and how they think, feel and live. Art is a lens and a way of understanding and being in the world. Those committed to furthering that aspect of themselves [lens] with intentional and evolving choices that are in alignment.

* Considering the overwhelmingly low historical representation and visibility of Women and Queer artists, priority is given to those populations.

This mentorship requires you to be an active participant and empowered co-collaborator. Any questions or concerns should be directed to rubyamanze@gmail.com.

A NOTE FROM RUBY

All of the questions I pose here are ones I've asked and continue to ask myself. Through the commitment I have to my own practice, I have lived my way to my working set of 'answers'. I can openly share my journey and perhaps some insights may be gleaned in the process. But more important to me, is co-creating a space in which I can witness and provide personalized support for *your* journey.

I've been an artist since I was born. Honestly. Many things have shifted in my becoming and more are unfolding even as I write this. I'm here and there is nowhere else I'd rather be. I do believe it's a gift; one I'm eternally grateful for. I also believe it's a huge responsibility and at times feels exhausting and deeply misunderstood. I'm a sensitive soul and one of my super powers is seeing and affirming authenticity and freedom.

For over twenty years, I've taught, facilitated, lectured and written about art and studio practice. In the classroom, I have little interest in the transfer of skills or in hierarchy. My role is to see where each person is and to meet them there - with human kindness, lots of creative instigation, inner inquiry and an invitation to feel and think more deeply. It is with that same energy that I offer this mentorship. This isn't school. This is life. This is a practice. This is a path. I am honored and excited to be able to work together - to customize and shape our time in ways that are supportive and enriching.



xx ruby