

Portfolio

Tony Rincon

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Artist Statement

My artistic practice is a multifaceted exploration of human connections, memory, and the physical embodiment of experiences. Through photography, I delve into the deeply personal and traumatic connections represented by roadside memorials. These memorials transform private grief into a public experience, allowing commuters to engage with sorrow and remembrance during their journeys. My work captures the physical essence of these memorials, showcasing the diverse elements that make each site unique and creating an immersive experience for viewers.

In 2022, I had the privilege of participating in Project Row Houses, an initiative that fosters community engagement and artistic expression in Houston's Third Ward. This experience deepened my understanding of how art can serve as a medium for social change and community building. My involvement in Project Row Houses reinforced my commitment to creating work that resonates with and uplifts communities, highlighting the importance of shared spaces and collective memory.

Beyond photography, my practice extends to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and somatic exercises, which inform my understanding of the body and its capacity for resilience and transformation. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, with its emphasis on technique, discipline, and physical connection, parallels the emotional and physical connections I explore in my photographic work. Additionally, my somatic exercises involve mentoring teenagers, guiding them through explorations of social barriers and trauma cycles in public settings that are significant to their communities. This mentorship aims to empower young individuals by addressing and overcoming social challenges, fostering resilience and personal growth.

Through these diverse mediums, my work aims to bridge the gap between individual and communal experiences, fostering a sense of connection and empathy. Whether capturing the silent echoes of roadside memorials, engaging with community projects, or exploring the physicality of martial arts and somatic practices, my art is a testament to the enduring power of human connections and the stories that shape our lives.

Artist Bio



Tony Rincon is an cultural producer based in Conroe, TX. Having completed his BFA in Photography with a minor in Graphic Design at Sam Houston State University, he is currently working his MFA in Art & Social Practice at the same university. In 2022, Tony was a summer studio residence at Project Row Houses where he created an art installation entitled Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies. Current interests include minimalism, street photography, roadside memorials, and somatic explorations.

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

2026
MFA Art and Social Practice
2022
BFA Photography

- Lone Star College, North Harris, Houston, TX

2018
A.A.
2017
A.A.S. Visual Communication

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025
SAA Spring Art Auction, Huntsville, TX
2024
I Am An Artist, Round Rock, TX
SAA Spring Art Auction, Huntsville, TX
2022
Unbound, Huntsville, TX
Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies, Project Row Houses,
Houston, TX

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024
Photographic Concepts, Art Department, SHSU (ongoing)
2023
Graduate Assistant, WASH & Studio Lighting, Art Department, SHSU

RESIDENCIES

2022
Project Row Houses Summer Studios

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

2025
Artist Talk, Professional Practices in Art taught by Emily Peacock, SHSU
Embodied Narratives, Poster Session, NSSA, Las Vegas, NV
2024
Threshold Blueprints, The New School, NYC, NY

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2025
B.A.D. (Bad Art Day), Hoyt Art Building, SHSU
2024
Social Para-site, Hoyt Art Building, SHSU

AWARDS

Sam Houston State University
2025
Templeton End Graduate Fellow
2024
Travel Fund Award, The Graduate and Professional School
Madison and Martha Wolfe Photography
2023
Friends of Photography
CAM Office of the Dean

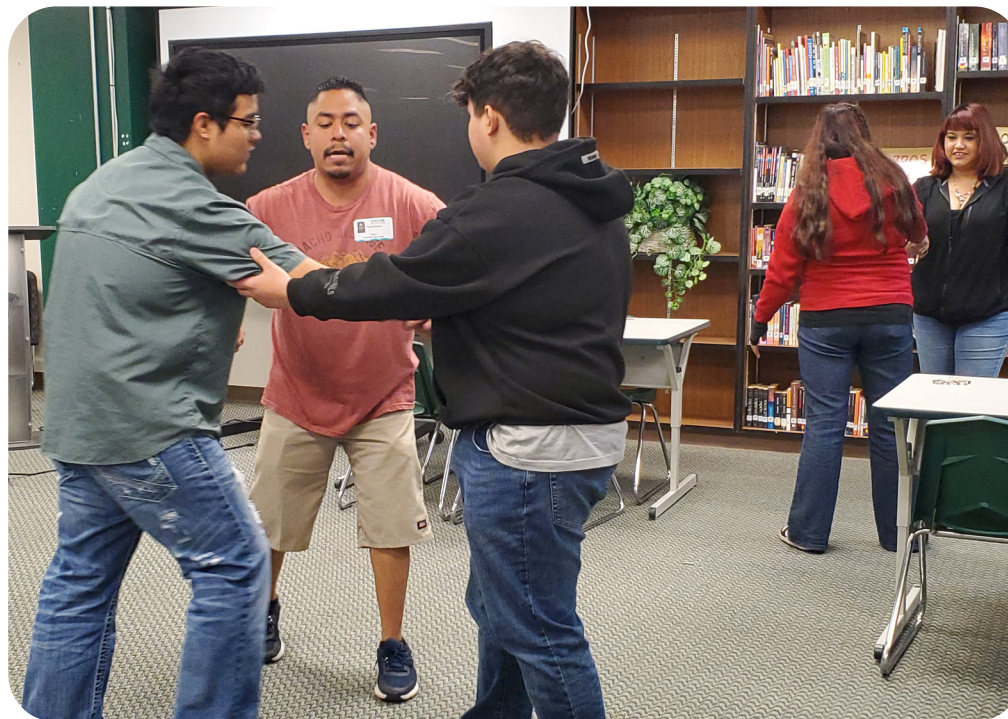
PRESS

2024
▪ The Artist-Developer :A Case Study of Impact through Art-Centered
Community Development in Neighborhoods of Color, Aisha Densmore-
Bey, August 2024
▪ Made in Latin America, Ep 2. The Ways of Art, SDCELAR British
Museum, February 2024
▪ “SHSU artists host annual auction”, Huntsville Item, April 2024

Somatic Dialogue



The goal of this project is to create an environment where teens can come together to practice, refine, and explore their movements. By fostering a space that encourages autonomy and experimentation, while also helping them understand and interpret their own context. This space will empower them to express themselves, whether through self-created scenarios using interpretive movements or through collaborative efforts of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu that serve as an alternative to in-school suspension. By providing a platform for both individual and collective exploration, we support teens in building self-awareness and social understanding.



Roadside Portraits



Through my photography, I delve into the deeply personal and traumatic connections represented by roadside memorials. These memorials transform private grief into a public experience, allowing to engage with sorrow and remembrance during their journeys. While many memorials feature crosses as markers, others use various objects to signify the deceased, such as flowers, photographs, and personal belongings. I aim to capture the physical essence of these memorials, showcasing the diverse elements that make each site unique. The images reveal the intricate details of the objects left behind, the weathered textures, and the poignant messages inscribed.

By documenting these sites, I seek to preserve the identities of those who have departed and ensure their memories continue to resonate with someone. These portraits serve as a medium for connecting the individual grief of mourners with the broader public, fostering a communal experience of remembrance. Roadside memorials are a powerful expression of private grief made public. They invite passersby to share in the sorrow and remembrance, creating a communal experience that bridges the gap between personal loss and public acknowledgment.



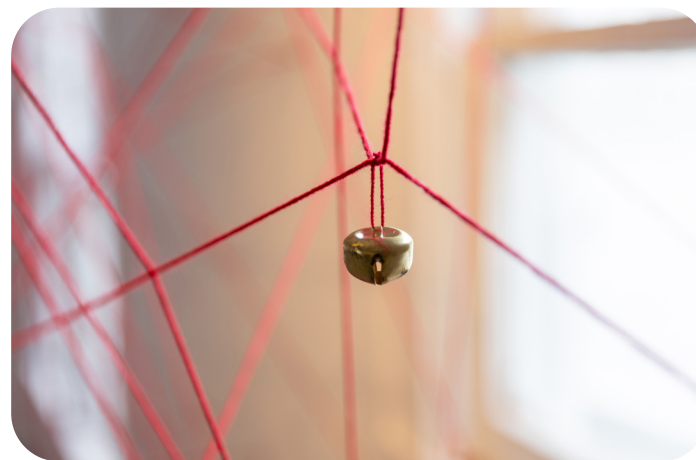
Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies



How is it possible that laws that are based on outdated and misogynistic views are still being written and overturned? Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies is an immersive installation that addresses the egregious inequalities that Black communities face when it comes to matters regarding Reproductive Justice.

There are invisible barriers that Black people experience when attempting to access reproductive healthcare that are often neglected by the U.S. healthcare system. A lack of access to healthcare impacts Black people more than any other community in America. Any attempt to deny or restrict access to necessary and wanted services has only ever been about one thing: greed.

Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies is a visual representation of the oppressive boundaries that have been created for women who will try and seek guidance and shelter from alternative decisions that go against the grain of society. The red string symbolizes the borders women deal with consistently. Bells are placed throughout the installation as a reminder to those in the immediate area that these issues of Reproductive Justice are being fought for every day.



“The installation “Domestic Supply of Commodified Bodies” by Tony Rincon and Liz Hayes interrogates “the egregious inequalities that Black communities face when it comes to matters regarding Reproductive Justice,” with the red string in the piece symbolizing the barriers that women must navigate in this medical and legislative system.” - Aisha Densmore-Bey. The Artist-Developer: A Case Study of Impact through Art-Centered Community Development in Neighborhoods of Color. August 2024.