



# Biography

**Afi Ese** (pronounced ah-fee eh-say)

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Identifies as a disabled artist (wheelchair-dependent)

Afi Ese is an African American narrative portrait artist living in Houston, Texas, raised in rural Waller County, Texas, with roots in Togo and Mali. She holds a master's of science in forensic psychology with a concentration in juvenile art therapy from Prairie View A&M University.

Afi is interested in southern heritage, Renaissance-era portrait construction, Moorish art, 14th-16th century European history, and how all of these things interplay with race and class- especially in Black America. Her work attempts to help direct the Black narrative and experience in an honest and transparent fashion.

Afi identifies as a disabled artist, suffering from advanced rheumatoid arthritis and is wheel-chair dependent. She also has hand deformities. As a professional artist invested in mental health and how art can be used as therapy, she expresses her journey through pain--both metaphorically and physically. She views artistic ability as a mental skill just as much as a physical skill and aims to show others with disabilities that they can find catharsis and relief through art.

Most recently, Ese's works have been on display at the Fine Arts Museum of Houston, the Hampton Fine Art Fair, and Jung Museum in Houston, where 8 of 14 pieces sold.