

Queer Faces of Color Series

We Believe in God, Too

Interactive Installation

About the Artist

Eboni Boneé Coleman (EB) is a photographer, artist, and creative who focuses on contextualizing the lived experiences of her community as a Black queer woman.

With a keen eye for the subtle details of her environment, EB's work has been featured in various publications locally and nationally, including but not limited to, Blavity, Girl Boss Magazine, The Denver Post, OutFront Magazine and 9 News.

A native of Denver, EB's distinctive eye is influenced by her background as a performer. With the ability to see the hidden patterns and making the connections for the larger story, EB has the innate sense to see the impact of the photo before it happens. Resulting in powerful captures of what is now our communal history.

*Dedicated to Reggie Coleman
(March 23, 1959-January 8, 2021)*

"To the ones who I know, and the ones who I don't know, and those who know me more than I know myself"

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Queer Faces of Color Series
We Believe in God, Too Synopsis
Eboni Boneé Coleman (EB) | EB Pixs

"And in our love, we found the one thing that tied our spirits together... and that was our love for God"

Who is God? What is spirit? What does it mean to have faith?

Depicting the truths of many untold stories from the LGBTQIA+ community, the Queer Faces of Color Series presents to you, **"We Believe in God, Too"** exploring the intersectionalities between queerness, love, religion, spirituality, and faith in the embodiment of the Black and African diasporic culture.

The roots of the Black church run deep into African ancestral traditions. The Atlantic slave trade, which began in the 15th century, combined several African ancestral traditions and religions due to the enslavement of various African communities. These included: traditional ancestral worship, Islam, and in the kingdom of Congo a form of Catholicism that pre-dated Columbus. Yoruba and Congo-based religions that had mixed with Roman Catholicism, created new religions like Vodou in Haiti, Santería in Cuba, and Candomblé in Brazil. Here in the United States, spiritual practices such as Hoodoo, Obeah, and Conjuración reflect similar practices that embody African spiritual roots (The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song, 2021).

What we sometimes fail to acknowledge is how our African spiritual roots transitioned into a religion we as the Black community historically have abided by; Christianity, also for us known as the Black Church.

Although historically the word of God was used to conform African/Black Americans, even by eliminating scripture in order to attain power over their being, the spirit of God has always played a vibrant role in African/Black Americans' idea of faith; encouraging a better future and hope for freedom (McQuillar, 2010). This faith gives our community the strength to keep going despite the many trials and tribulations that continue to be unjust and unethical.

Why is it that our faith in God is questioned if our sexual orientation doesn't align with the heteronormative perspective? This series and installation sits as a reminder that our faith and belief in God can co-exist with queer orientation. That in the end what binds our Black community together is the love we found within each other, and that was our love and faith in God.

EB

www.ebpixs.com | For all inquiries contact: DCPA Jesús Quintana Martínez

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Hello and welcome to the, "**We Believe in God, Too**" interactive installation!

I hope you are well *mind, body, and spirit!*

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As you look upon the spectrum of the Black/African American LGBTQIA+ folx featured in this installation, you will journey upon 6 paths:

The Introduction
The Power of "WE"
Lost In Translation
The Book of Psalms
Ring Shout
Allyship vs. Accomplice

Each path displays a scannable QR Code that features more information and details of each piece, along with inserts that each participant has shared in relation to their own story.

From all of us, we thank you for taking a closer look into, "**We Believe in God, Too**".

Special thank you to:

All of the participants: London, Jas, Nizhoni, Raven, Nazir, Niyankor, Ash, Lex, Tyrell, Tyler & Karesha
Coburn, Titi

Directors Assistant: Aujha Aye

PA: Dr. tara jae

Makeup: Cemia Beauty Co

Support: Valencia Hill

Catering: Plāts

Manager: Ashton Atmore

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