



**BLACK MAGIC:
A COLLECTIVE OF LIVED EXPERIENCES
JANISE “JAY” POWELL**

ABSTRACT

ANTI-BLACKNESS IS A PANDEMIC THAT PLAGUES SOCIETIES ACROSS THE WORLD AND ACROSS HISTORIES FILLED WITH THE MURDER OF BLACK LIVES, SPIRITS, AND DREAMS. YET, THROUGHOUT IT ALL, BLACK FOLX HAVE FOUND STRENGTH AND BEEN LEADERS OF RESISTANCE, RADICALIZATION, SELF-EMANCIPATION, AND LIBERATION. BLACK MAGIC IS A COLLECTION OF TRACK THAT POWELL HAS FORMED IN RELATION TO CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND THE WAYS IN WHICH BLACK FOLX HAVE FOUND SOLIDARITY, LIBERATION, FREEDOM, AND HEALING IN A WORLD THAT SEEKS TO DESTROY THEM. UTILIZING SHORT STORIES TOLD THROUGH SPOKEN-WORD POETRY, POWELL SHARES HER EXPERIENCES AND THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE WHO SHE HAS BEEN BLESSED TO BE IN COMMUNITY WITH. SHE ENDEAVORS TO GO BEYOND SHARING ABOUT SYSTEMS THAT PREVENT ERADICATION OF ANTI-BLACKNESS, INSTEAD HIGHLIGHTING THE WAYS IN WHICH BLACK FOLX ARE EXPERIENCING ANTI-BLACKNESS AND FINDING JOY DESPITE THEM. THIS COLLECTION OF TRACKS SEEKS TO NAME AND DRAW TO LIGHT THAT WHICH WE KNOW THROUGH LIVED EXPERIENCE: THE MAGIC OF BLACKNESS. EACH TRACK IS NAMED AFTER A BLACK WOMAN WHO IS THE LIVING OR LIVED PERSONIFICATION OF THAT STORY. A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE OF BLACK MAGIC, SPECIFICALLY A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE OF BLACK GIRL MAGIC.

NOTES FROM ARTIST

WEAVINGS AND TEXTILES, COMMON ITEMS COMMUNITIES, STITCH THE LABOR AND TIME OF CREATORS INTO A BACKDROP THAT FRAMES THE PRESENT MOMENT FRAMING A PERSON IN THE ACT OF CREATION. THIS PERSON WEAVES HERSELF TOGETHER NOT BECAUSE SHE ISN'T WHOLE, BUT TO EMBELLISH, ASSEMBLE, AND CREATE A REINFORCEMENT OF SELF. HER HANDS ARE BOTH HER OWN AND SOMEONE ELSE'S.