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S.B.W. # 1

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Haleigh Nickerson

S.B.W. # 1 is from a series of self-portraits that explore black beauty, black femininity, and the Strong Black Woman trope. The Strong Black Woman or Superwoman exists as a recurring trope where black women are expected to and feel the burden of having to continue to be *strong* and handle their oppression, despite circumstances. The Strong Black Woman is denied vulnerability, the ability to connect to her humanness and her own narrative. This work explores how the S.B.W. exists and navigates her own private space. It investigates black female vulnerability; the exhaustion, melancholy, cultural masking, and silent suffering surrounding the S.B.W. through using costuming and excessive makeup as tools to explore the attempt to attain unrealistic expectations.
