



Asia Estelle

Portfolio Packet/

Bio, Artist Statement, &
Current CV

Spring 2026

BIO

Emerging artist, Asia Estelle, is an African American photographer, ceramicist, and visual activist. Estelle was born and raised in Houston, TX, and has received an Associate of Arts degree from Lone Star College. Estelle has also received a BFA in Photography with a minor in Mass Communication from Texas State University.

Estelle's motifs consist of Black issues and Black natural hair. She strives to explore ways to combine 2D and 3D materials. Additionally, she aspires to provide representation for Black people and to inspire them to be confident and unapologetic in their Blackness. Estelle is interested in using her tools, cameras, and clay, as political instruments to empower herself and her community.

More recently, Estelle completed an internship as an Education Intern at the Houston Center for Photography. Estelle's juried exhibitions include the BUTTER Fine Art Fair (Los Angeles, 2026), BUTTER Fine Art Fair (Indianapolis, 2025), and the Houston Center for Photography's 42nd Center Annual, curated by Rebecca Senf. Estelle's group exhibitions include SAVAGE, shown at Band of Vices (Los Angeles, 2026), and Don't Get It Twisted: Untangling a Textured Legacy, shown at the Contemporary Art Center (Cincinnati, 2026). Estelle's awards include the Alan Mills Inaugural Best in Show Award from BUTTER Fine Art Fair based in Indianapolis, Indiana.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Black natural hair is a language – one of lineage, liberation, and living memory. Each curl and coil holds a story, carrying fragments of cultural knowledge that move through generations. In my practice, clay becomes more than a medium; it becomes a tool to express myself as a visual activist. I turn to the motif of hair not only for its beauty, but for the layers of identity, politics, and community it holds. By rendering hair into clay, I observe the intimacy and history that results. Each vessel is a material expression of affirmation, belonging, and is a testament to the boundless strength of Black identity. My artwork honors resilience, care, and the multiplicities of Black experience.

The process of making my ceramic work mimics the care and patience involved in tending to natural hair. Each braid pressed into my molds carries a trace of my hair's presence – fragile, sacred, and delicate. As the clay records these impressions, it freezes time, transforming gestures of daily life into monuments of memory. I am drawn to the tension between fragility and resilience and how both can exist together. Windows then interrupt the forms of my pieces – echoing what has been taken, lost, and erased from Black culture. The absences speak metaphorically to the endurance of my vessels and of the Black community while simultaneously creating space for reflection, healing, and reclamation. Through the shifts between presence and absence, the viewer can see through our pain to reveal the power of Black hair.

Rooted in community, inclusiveness, and accessibility, both my photographic and ceramic practices resist monolithic narratives of Blackness. Each vessel or photo becomes a small offering back to the community that shaped me: a gesture of appreciation, a record of shared histories, and a reminder that our stories – like our hair – are significant, complex, and ever-evolving. Hair is also a language of transformation and collective pride, inviting viewers into a space where the beauty of Black hair is not only preserved but uplifted and made tangible: represented deeply, urgently, and without compromise.

ASIA ESTELLE

<https://aaestelleart.wixsite.com/asiaestelle> | asiae@bleedartordie.com

Education

- 2024 B.F.A. Photography/ Minor in Mass Communication, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
- 2021 A.A. Lone Star College Cy-Fair, Cypress, TX

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2026 (FACES) Don't Get It Twisted: Untangling a Textured Legacy, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
SAVAGE Emerging Artist Competition, Band of Vices, Los Angeles, CA
- 2025 Technicolor, ProjectSPACE, Palo Alto College, San Antonio, TX
- 2024 Total Eclipse, Sabinal Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Synecdoche: Identity through _____, Texas Ski Ranch, San Marcos, TX
Who am I... to you? Identity vs. Perception, Sabinal Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, (curated by Middle Grey Photography Association)
Opulent Bonds: Bobcats and Beyond, San Marcos Art Center, San Marcos Art League, San Marcos, TX
- 2023 Sabinalia, Sabinal Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
The Emotions of Color, Sabinal Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, (curated by Middle Grey Photography Association)
Historical to Hysterical, Flex Space, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, (curated by Jennifer Ling Datchuk)

Selected Art Fairs & Juried Exhibitions

- 2026 BUTTER Fine Art Fair (GANGGANG Culture), Hollywood Park, Inglewood, CA
- 2025 BUTTER Fine Art Fair (GANGGANG Culture), The Stutz Building, Indianapolis, IN
HCP 42nd Center Annual, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX (curated by Dr. Rebecca Senf, Chief Curator at the Center for Creative Photography)
- 2024 Student Juried Exhibition, Texas State Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, (curated by Vivian Li, Lupe Murchison Curator of Contemporary Art at the Dallas Museum of Art)

Fellowships, Grants, & Awards

- 2026 Artist of the Month, Ceramic Store of Houston, Houston, TX
- 2025 Alan Mills Inaugural Best in Show Award of \$5,000, BUTTER Fine Art Fair, Indianapolis, IN
- 2024 Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award of \$750 (for photobook, liminal intimacies) Honors College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Internships & Residencies

- 2025 Education Intern, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX, (Jan '25- May '25)

Presentations & Lectures

2025 “Artist Talk: Hair, liminal intimacies, BLACKAZINE, and Ceramics,” Middle Grey Photography Association, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, October 9, 2025.

Press & Selected Publications

2025 [Daily Inspiration: Meet Asia Estelle](#) published by Voyage Houston

2024 [“Sentimental Snapshots in Conversation: Asia Estelle.”](#) published by House Lebu
[“Asia Estelle: San Marcos Art League Interview.”](#) published by Ike Honea for the San Marcos Art League

Selected Work



HAIR Vessel #1

Ceramic

11 x 11 x 20 in.

2024

NFS

HAIR Vessel #4

Ceramic

8 x 8 x 14.25 in

2025

SOLD



HAIR Vessel #10
Ceramic
11 x 11 x 13.75 in
2026
SOLD



HAIR Mugs
Ceramic
6 x 4 x 5 in.
2025, Ongoing
NFS, Styles Vary



Reverse HAIR Vessel

Ceramic
5 x 5 x 10 7/8 in
2025
NFS



TENSION Vessel #1

Ceramic
7 x 7 x 4.5 in
2025
NFS

Hair Urn
Ceramic and hair of the artist
4.5 x 4.5 x 3 in.
2025
NFS



TENSION Vessel #3
Ceramic
7 x 7 x 6 in
2025
SOLD



TENSION Vessel #4

Ceramic
7.5 x 7.5 x 7.5 in
2026
SOLD



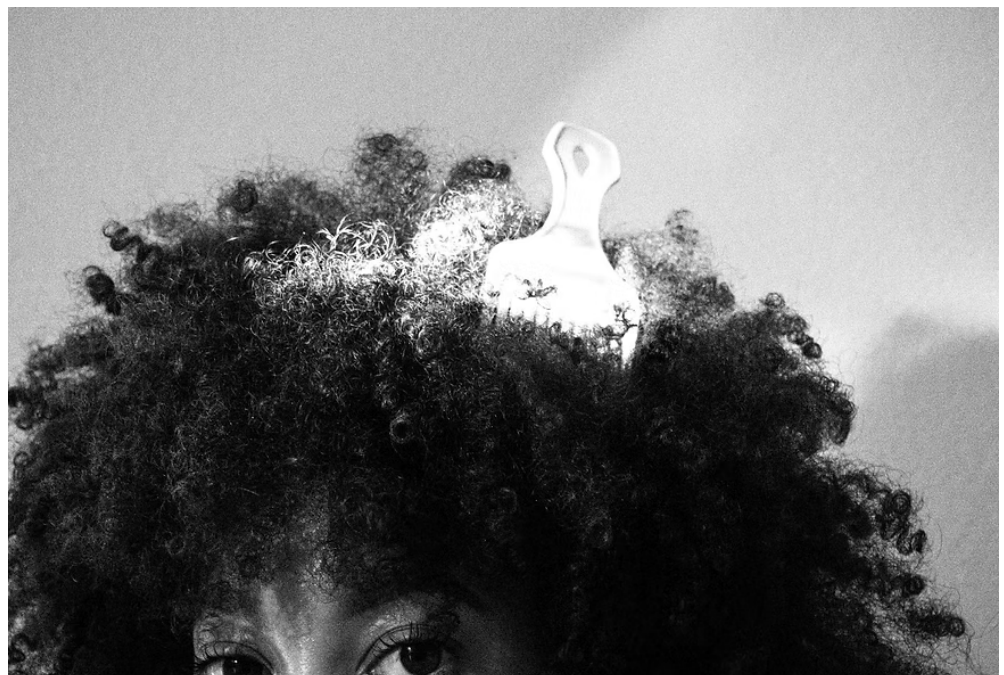
TENSION Vessel #4

Ceramic
6 x 6 x 5.25 in
2026
\$1,600



Blue Monday
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024

Nit Pick
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024



granny's wash day
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024



Untitled
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024



twin mother
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024



Untitled
Digital Photography
Dimensions Vary
2024

