

## Bio

Siena Smith (b.1996, New York City) is an artist currently based in Providence, Rhode Island. She works with weaving, drawing and collage to work out the complexities of identity and investigate personal narratives. She earned her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in Textiles and MFA at School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Fiber and Material Studies. She is interested in how tactility, gesture, color, and texture of textile and 2-D mediums carry the expression and essence of Black Diasporic histories and emotional, spiritual, cultural, and generational knowledges and lived experiences.

## Context Statement

Lately I've been thinking about how to take care and cultivate friendships and personal growth. Questions like, "How do Black womxn tend to themselves and loved ones?" and "How do we be kind to ourselves while creating healthy boundaries?" keep popping up.

Personally this year has been full of trying to balance life, work and practice to prevent burnout. I constantly find myself tapping into who and what my peace and support is. Sometimes it's FaceTiming a friend or blasting Burna Boy in my headphones on my way to work or lighting a candle or watching P-Valley or grabbing dinner with my parents.

This body of work explores how as Black womxn, we become our own support system along with our family and friends ... We become this network of care for each other to nurture our growth, time and wellness.