



“Torn: A Custom Altered By Society”

Ashti-Leah Mindy Rampersad

I have seen changes throughout the course of time and how the use of *mehndi* has been taken out of its traditional context and now used in multiple forms. For example it is used on the human body for temporary tattooing; the floral and decorative patterns are seen in clothing and advertisements.

My work depicts both worlds: one where a person is holding on to those traditions; the other aspect is adopted from the world that is ever changing and vast. Combining both, shows my world, a hybrid world meant to resonate with those who are “torn” by what they have left and now live in. A new meaning is developed when both worlds try to co-exist.

My art maintains the traditional decorative flow of patterns, which is applied on canvas or wood, using a variety of materials such as sand, torn paper, tiles and acrylic paints; these materials represent the change and influence of the world in which we now live in.