

## Sophie Harpo's Artist Statement:

As an artist I've always responded favorably to not only political statements in art, but also politically historic and socially realist narratives found in a large variety of comics. What's exciting for me is the fact that political satire in particular has always been fodder for subject matter in American cartoons and comics. For instance although "The Funny Pages" and Comic Books are the universally recognized pillars of the cartoonist's medium, it was "Political Cartoons" that initially and continue to have a designated space in most metropolitan newspapers. It is often overlooked that constant political discourse is the thing printed comics and gallery art have the most in common. Being black and queer, growing up in the 80s and 90s, while coming of age in the punk scene of the early 2000s political discourse has first and foremost been essential for self preservation. Beyond personal reasons the power dynamics, and often revisionist history of American politics has always fascinated me from a dramatic, mythical standpoint. My favorite comics and the subject matter of my own works have always been the superhero genre. I've always noticed parallels between the shared history of the superhero genre with the political trajectory of America itself. American presidents are often viewed as mythological figures of power, complete with universal visual signifiers. There's also a subjective oscillation between figures deemed heroic or villainous. I plan to expand my subject matter for comic stories to tackle satirical political biographies. I am working on a piece at this time.