

## **Artist Statement**

### **Brent Harris**

To be in diaspora is to live in a state of disconnect.

You live in the home of your abuser. The one your ancestors built for them. But not for you.

At best you are tolerated in your adopted home.

What holds you to the earth are the spirit memories. The ancestral DNA that reminds you that when you stop listening in the language of the oppressor you will hear the voices telling you the stories that ground you and bind you to your true home.

My work has been carved into, bored through, and transformed by fire. Nails driven through the surface are both shackle and crown. They contain the history and also the liberation of these souls passing through.

They are the equinox of human history. The turning point of our shared human story.