

Microaggressions are defined as subtle, intentional — and oftentimes unintentional — everyday interactions or behaviors that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative racial messages or assumptions toward historically marginalized groups.

The difference between microaggressions and overt discrimination, is that people who commit microaggressions are often unaware they are doing these things — and if you point it out to them, they say, “That wasn’t my intention, you are being too sensitive.” Which is yet another microaggression.

I often have the experience of people touching my hair without asking first, which makes me feel like merchandise on display and I cannot begin to tell you how many times I’ve been complimented for being “articulate.” Which presumes that black people are not usually capable of competent intellectual conversation.

The weight of these daily interactions underpins very real consequences... stress, anger, frustration, self-doubt and ultimately feelings of powerlessness and invisibility.

Creating using a combination of free form weaving, knotting and wrapping techniques, I have deployed memories, zip ties, ribbon, yarn, paracord, cotton rope, beading and recycled fishing nets to encourage dialogue about implicit bias and stereotypes. The work is repetitious and meditative, and my hope is to make the invisible, visible as a path towards a more inclusive culture.

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