

My name is Carlos Nielbock and I am an architectural, ornamental metal artist. My childhood was magnificent and I was free of any pressure whatsoever because people really loved me... And I maybe grew up in a time where was necessary to show tolerance and openness and the willingness to move forward. So I grew up without any malice or precaution because of my bi-racial situation. My values arrive out of a time that is post-war and the reconstruction of Germany and the making do with the materials that you have available and to rely on the skills that were passed on to you by another generation that gives you the ability to not only restore, but build new or rebuild or transform.

When I first came to Detroit, it was almost like a revelation because A, I never seen as many Black people in my life. I think, you know, everybody was Black from the bus driver, to the cab driver to the banker, the police you know, and all the people that were walking around right here. I have overcoming sense of belonging. And that kind of was the reason that I made a go here at Detroit because I was that confident that I'm able to unfold myself and build a future just by walking around... just that first impression.

My hopes will be complete integration. An economy that reaches everybody in the United States, a more equal playing field so that you don't have that much difference between rich and poor. It is so disturbing, I think, about United States on how big the gap is between people... they have not and would not have the opportunity to create their own reality. The unique identity of Detroit, I think, allows you to navigate your life untainted.