

Western University

Scholarship@Western

Uplifting Blackness Collection

Uplifting Blackness: A Showcase of Art by
Western's Black Student Community

2022

We Wear The Mask

Matthew Dawkins

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/upliftingblackness_art



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Citation of this paper:

Dawkins, Matthew, "We Wear The Mask" (2022). *Uplifting Blackness Collection*. 38.
https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/upliftingblackness_art/38

I think I have lost it.
I fumble,

“Where did it fall?

Is it missing somewhere
Along the winding road leading to
Our land once promised?
Should I turn around?
Retrieve it?
Nakedness, they say, will have me turned back.”

But,
I have been running,
Heaving,
With it still on me
For years now.

So, I am afraid
That it has fallen off a very long time ago
And I am just now beginning to realize
It is gone.

Or worse,
My sweat and pain has sealed the thing
Into the very cells of my skin.
That I am
Still wearing it.

We Wear the Mask