Chidinma Dureke , *Intrusive Thoughts,* 2023
Ink, gouache and newspaper print on paper, 8 x 11.5 in.

Dirty House

By Monica Bell

I've heard stories about people who have lost their children.

I was in high school—They would say:

"So-And-So got her kids taken because her house was too dirty."

I was scared to death.

I have heard of people.
that if your house isn't clean and They come in there and
your house is really filthy—

They would take your kids.

How filthy do your house have to be?

I'm not the neatest person
My house is comfortable—

How dirty does your house have to be for them to take your kids?

When they said "dirty," What do they mean?

When I look at "Hoarders"—I don't know if you know "Hoarders"—

I was thinkin',
This must be what they mean?

because I would think if they saw a pile of dirty clothes or whatever:

I wouldn't think they would say:
"I'm going to take your daughter."

How dirty does your house have to be?