

experiences behind the art

The philosophy behind his work and pieces that send out a specific message is his motto "Smile and Destroy". More specifically when regarding racism and discrimination he states that "somebody else's ignorance is not my problem . . . I've heard people hurl the N word at me try to get a reaction . . . in places where there is hate, I'll do huge pieces . . . something that says 'smile'," HP Fang drives the point that one must smile back instead of responding to such experiences with anger or hate.

Regarding his drawing on Elijah McClain, an African American who passed away on the way to the hospital after being put on chokehold by the police, HP Fangs writes his last words on the bottom: "FORGIVE ME. ALL I WAS TRYING TO DO WAS BECOME BETTER." Elijah McClain is one of the many unjust incidents of black people getting murdered by the hands of the police. Fangs states that for such events "there is no forgiveness for the parties involved. . . Here is this young man, believed to be on the spectrum, who's just going home."

HP Fangs himself faced an attack by a group of people involving a former police officer. At a bar with his coworkers, HP Fangs was receiving strange stares by the group and was then on the floor with blood everywhere and being recorded. Having "almost died from bleeding out", he took the situation to court. The party being prosecuted was a white woman, former cop, and a young man who recorded. Listening to their racist lies on court, HP Fangs felt trauma and dehumanized on court as he heard stereotypes of being a black male. The defense of the physical attackers described him as a horror movie monster. "When I see stuff like Elijah McClain . . . where's your justification there?"

