Hair, color, pattern, Sci-Fi

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Cassaundra Billups
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James Eugene
2d ago

Komi Olaf

CONFIRMED
CONNECTION SEVERED
FWAHAHAH

I think its interesting how often African/Tribal characters are portrayed as aliens in regular pop cultured Sci-Fi... And I'ts borderline offencive. Yet, Afrofuturists constantly identify with the alien or tribal role.

Is Afrofuturism only created by black artists?

Images of black superheros I found in my Marvel Comic

GREEN LANTERN

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Parliament

Kenya's first science-fiction film,

PUMZI

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The AFROFUTURISM BOOK

MY AFROFUTURISM INSPIRED ARTWORK

Collage inspired by Wangechi Mutu's Work

Drawing/ Painting inspired by my collage

I waited until the last minute to do my art project in my drawing class. I worked and completed it in one standing, then presented my work the next morning...

I was the second person to present and none of my classmates had anything to say about it during critique. So, I started talking about how I was inspired by my Afrofuturism research project in my #BLM class.
My professor leans towards me with his arms crossed and eyes squinted and goes, “AFROFUTURISM???”, then repeated the word to himself a few times in disbelief. As usual my classmates were dead silent and it hit me that my professor actually didn’t know anything about Afrofuturism (he’s white) although when I presented my collage, he guessed correctly that it was inspired by Wangechi Mutu. He didn’t know that Wangechi Mutu is one of the most common artists to pop up when researching Afrofuturism.

I was embarrassed, So to hurry up the presentation I said “you can google it, some examples would be Wangechi mutu and Janelle Monae...” with fingers crossed that someone would have at least heard of Janelle Monae. Shifting focus back to my art, the professor started trying to guess where some of the symbols were from around the figure and I told him they were African and Egyptian symbols. After uttering those words in front of a class full of Mexican students, I felt sick knowing that no one will say anything about it now that I've incorporated two black women into my art work twice in a row. I thought to myself that my artwork was officially “too black” for their taste but I also regret not just going all out. Instead, I tried to keep my subject moderate so they wouldn’t feel uncomfortable by something super Afrocentric.

See, I’m the only black artist I know at this school. Taking a Black Lives Matters class was a personal choice for me to figure out what I would talk about through my artwork. I realize that since I’m black, my subjects will be different from everyone else's and I’ll have to explain my views on blackness through my art eventually. What I didn’t know was how frightening it is to do it in a class full of all hispanic and/ or white students.

The rest of the class presented their work and others joined each other in interesting conversations about how their subject was inspired by Mexican art. I noticed they seemed very comfortable and love talking about incorporating their culture into their art. I don’t know if I’ll ever get to experience that comfort.

With all the research I’ve done, I learned that I have to have my own confidence in understanding blackness and what it means to me. I’m afraid that being a black artist would be unsuccessful because no one outside of my race may care or know what I’m talking about, at the same time, I feel that its my responsibility to be the change I wish to see. Therefore, I have to tell my story and continue experimenting with different ways to do so. Maybe I’ll inspire, and there will be less cases of being the only black kid in an Art class in the future.

A STORY ABOUT THIS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

THANK YOU