

## How Can You See

Inspired by Nigerian artist/writer Rasaan Malik

**When they compose their stories, and share their images  
that captivate, how can you see? How can you see that  
their skin isn't porcelain white. That it is not a creamy beige.  
No, their skin holds a rich history, story, and culture making  
its pigment deeper. Making its melanin stand out a little more.  
A little bolder, a little stronger.  
How can you see**

ugly instead of art?

Savage instead of creative?

Inferior in lieu of gifted?

The face and the people that you wish to demean, diminish  
are not there. No, their art is what is present. Looking right at you  
almost as persistently as you are looking at it. Refusing to conform  
and step down from the place that you deem only fit for you  
and your own.

How can you not see past your bigotry? We are all equal.

How can you not see?

It's right in front of you.

## Why Say So

Inspired by Kenyan artist/writer Alexis Teyie

Lines derived from her poem, "There It Goes"

The skyline is dark, but still alive.

Rarely looked at behind the backs of all their people.

Even ones forgotten.

It's still there. *"They burn like open sores"*

The children, lifted from private accomplishments.

*"The acacia, scarred from private wars, still has leaves."*

*"I am not radical in my sorrow.*

*What has come before,*

*that which has been handed down-*

*these are my only methods.*

*I feel what I feel should be felt.*

*I say nothing new, nothing different.*

*My concerns are as they were before:"*

How can a mammal living have no brain as you say.

## Unfortunately Equal Merit

Others are inferior because they are not our own.

Learn to conform so your pride can be shown.

Decide to hide the lessons that live in you; that are set in your bones.

Hold what little you have, it will not be there someday

Inside you weep while they strip who you are away.

Eradicate the art your ancestors fought to create, we will not acknowledge the

Real old disease in in our world called idiotic.

A lot of people in this country got it.

Race covers it, but in reality we have taken history and

Changed it to be what we want to see. Choose to be our idea of accepted

History won't object it

Ideally we're on top,

Eventually the whole world will

See how we have taken your reality and made it a memory

# Maarufu Mara Moja

“Instantly Famous”

They do not get  
the same opportunities  
as you do, be happy

Why do you always  
have to move the finish line  
before I can start

They are compared at  
the same level but they don't  
have the same options

If their country fails  
we don't also have to fail  
them as well; equal merit

Please do not complain  
because they need more chances  
be glad that you don't