

TOBIAS





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I dedicate this WORK to an African Slave Boy named Tobias, I also generated my perceived image of Tobias to another California Death Row artist named Robert Danson, and Robert brought the image to life, inspiring me to make Tobias's image the centerpiece of our LGBTQ Spirituality Group Membership card.

Like most lil black boys in America, we found Tobias while looking at something else, yes, a story about The New Netherlands about 1647, Yes, I just said, circa 1647.

Although the original story was "The Tale of Harmen Meyndertz van den Bogert, in the era, OF a territory, we now know as New York; I kept noticing how Harmen was running away from being put in prison for committing sodomy with his African slave Tobias.

At least twice, Harmen was put in prison, and each time he escape, Tobias was either waiting for him, or escaping with Harmen, not typical "slave behavior".



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The story goes on to state that Harmen and Tobias escaped again, for a third time, fleeing to The Mohawk Valley, due to Harmen being the first White man Allowed to cross into The Mohawk Valley, The tribe ironically allowed a special place within their culture for what we know now as "gay people", but known to the Mohawk tribe as, "Two Spirits", in 1647.

In fact, the Dutch chased Harmen and Tobias in the Mohawk village at Big Nose Mountain, and a battle took place, some Mohawk storehouses were burned, before Harmen and Tobias was taken into custody for the third escape. The Mohawks sued the Dutch after learning the White man's laws and collected damages, now, also, let it be known that one of Harmen's many professions was law, and, wow.

I'm focusing on this third escape because while fleeing across the icy surface of the Hudson, near the present day I-90 bridge, Harmen fell through the ice and drowned, according to the story, great story by the way, this Harmen cat predates the term, multitasking.



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However, nothing is written about what happened to Tobias, so I searched my own spirit for the best possible account. In vision Tobias returning to the Mohawk Tribe that fought with he and Hagen against The Dutch, I can see Tobias living out the rest of his life among the "Two Spirits" and only to be discovered as perhaps the first LGBTQ African Slave is on record in the land that would later become The United States of America, another New.

So, to lil blackbeys today, from the innercity streets of America, in Tobias, we are able to find ourselves in history. Living a life of being hunted, incarcerated, fighting for freedom, being fostered, and cared for by those with the heart to embrace us as we are, and survivor's, yet, unaccounted for in our own stories, forgotten about by our own; until we stumble upon discovering ourselves, by, ourselves, and each other.

So I dedicate this work, to every uncounted, and forgotten Tobias, from Africa, to the innercity streets of America



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So, every Year, I chose a day, to celebrate Tobias, my African LGBTQ ancestor, I dress in all white clothes, or in my true nakedness, I invite someone to eat, enjoy music, spokenword, and Raps, and Singing, or reciting introspective poetry that is, ethnographic in content, dance and Just Be.

I cut my hair into a FRO-hawk style, to recognize the Mohawk Tribe that embraced a white man and his African boy slave, and or lover, without discrimination of sexual orientation.

And now, The prescured image of Tobias, is now the face of the historical first ever California Condemned LGBTQ Spirituality Group, a group that produces The Sound Mind Streamer, for the spiritual eddification of the most undersevered PRISON subcultural Communities, where everyday is, Tobias Day.

From Victim to Victor, I am, TOBIAS, We, are TOBIAS, discovering each other, again.

Today marks my 8th year of cutting another version of ethnographic stylings of the "FRO-HAWK" into my hair.

I've seen other Africans in this hairstyle, I can't wait until all of my hair is totally gray, so I can really rock it in winter. I do this one time every year, I invite you to join us in our new tradition of honor, love and unity.



Year one, adorn Frohawk for 24 hours and cut, to a new Journey.
Second year, adorn Frohawk for 48 hours and cut, to a new Journey.
Third year, 3 days, fourth year, 4 days, and so on, until you're forever.

Today ends the 8th day, and at 12 midnight, I cut, to a new Journey to invite us all to look for each other, find each other, love and care for each other, and lead each other by the creation of new ideas, and actions that encourage us all to think for ourselves, provide for each other, forgive those that cause us harm, and fight for our right of universal nature to exist, as we are, in our own space, Open to each other, Tobias, Badiare.