

Simon Says

Transcript Export

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Sauliha Mitchell: Artist Reflection for American Muslim Futures

FULL TRANSCRIPT (without timecode)

Hello. Asalaam walaikum wa bara katahu

I just want to take a second and say thank you all for viewing my work. I am Sauliha Mitchell and I'm from York, South Carolina. So to me a just future is one in which every individual essentially who has differences comes forward and puts their differences aside for the sake of humanity and for the sake of unity.

Now this doesn't mean completely erasing your differences. Because naturally we all have differences, and we all have things about us that make us individually unique. But a future that is just, is one that we all can understand that we have differences. Yet we still come to the table, we still understand that we are equal or we are all human beings at the end of the day.

This work envisions a just future by essentially first beginning talking about the family tree. The family trees is more so talking about us as humans. The way that we have multiple emotions or we have different aspects that inherently are negative.

I want to take a moment to clarify what I mean by inherently, and I don't mean that everybody has this within them and they're just they're complacent and they're happy about it. But for example I use division. One of the emotions I used was division. With that I mean, it exists within us and it's something that we have to actively work against. Or we have to actively recognize that first it exists and then we have to overcome it. That is one of the steps towards creating a just future. If a person is constantly in a mindset of us versus them then there is no just future.

There is no just future where there are severe divisions. My vision also incorporates the idea of hope being a stairway to a just future. I wanted to use that because I know in a lot of instances when we do see negative things that happen in the world or divisions in the world, there is always a part of us that hopes that there's going to be better, or hopes that our actions will impact the world that we live inside of. So that's why I used hope and talked about the child of Hope, or her child essentially being that connection or that bridge that we all need.

But overall the American Futures exhibit is important because it allows people to have a new perspective or it allows them to gain a new perspective. So if I'm somebody who has no idea about anything more or not even anything, or I view the world in a different way, by seeing my work they may gain a new perspective, they may look at the world through a different lens. Or choose to look at the world through a different lens because they've heard this piece.

That's kind of why I wanted to submit my art to this exhibit. I just wanted to take the time to show my perspective of the world to those people who not may lack the view, but have a desire to gain different perspectives but don't have the opportunity to.

I hope the impact of this exhibit will be something that just essentially overall gives people new perspectives, gives them new ideas, puts this in the forefront of their brain. It's something they constantly ask themselves, what is the just future look like? Then after giving themselves that answer, how can I attain it?