

Talking Objects

I like to be read back to front

Front to back

I will leave you if you place me in water

I am with you but I am not yours

Others are meant to possess me

When I am not with you I'll be within you always

I've already marked you



*It is with the head that the fish cuts through
the deep.... It is with the head that the
thunderbolt splits the iroko tree....*

*I will have a safe passage in life
through the power of my head.*



about I like to just call my theory
conscious realism because I
want to be



very very clear that I'm saying
that
consciousness is fundamental

"Above all, it reduces the astronomical distance between the worshipper and the worshipped, providing a bridge for a face-to-face communion."



I shouldn't assume I know
what you're
really feeling I should really
be

I should really
be
careful to engage more and to
talk to you



*"In effect, anthropomorphization in Yoruba liturgical art is not likeness as such.
It makes visible what is otherwise invisible,
facilitating the use of language as well as the visual
and performing arts
to sensitize an orisha to humanistic values."*

What burns but doesn't choke? And so it passes...



from the network with these
simple
conscious agents I can build
networks



that simulate selves that
simulate
intelligence that have
memories and so



*"Forms convey much more
than meets the eye,
fleetingly hinting at
the human yet
otherworldly nature
of spirits"*



that then I will show how we
can create
space-time and physical
objects as a



space-time and physical
objects as a
user interface to this whole
vast social network


One thread topped the other
Extended as far as your length
As wide as our width The threads had hairs
That combed into one another
Do you hear me as an alto or tenor?

Fabric: Poem in a Zine

Small windows of light brushed

The bodies of us
outstretched an orgy of warmth

As far as the eye cannot see
We are the length of us
Do you hear me in your left ear or right?



Ariel Mercado is a Queer Afro-Bori conceptual artist from the Bronx who explores the intersections of poetry and visual arts. Their work centers around the domestic space, transcendental psychology, the diaspora, and the nature/quality of identity.

They explore semiotics as a Black Bi-Cultural Diasporican, and whether an artist can make work that is truly Black and esoteric. They utilize their written objects & ritual/performance work as a medium to highlight the responsibilities of audiences to artists, consent, and trust. Mercado intends for their work to aid in creating tender and investigative intra-communal conversations.

You can follow them on :
IG @ SheSoPleasant

Excerpts from:
Embodying the Sacred in Yoruba Art,
Babatunde Lawal

Interview:
Donald Hoffman, *Cognitive Scientist*