

THE HYPER-SEXUALIZATION OF BLACK
WOMEN AND GIRLS.



Lapis Valido

BLACK WOMEN: VICTIMS OF THE MEDIA.

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I WILL NOT BE. I WILL BE.

I will not be the girl who bows her head
I will not be the girl who hides her body
I will not be the girl who comes off strong
I am a girl who will learn to love and grow

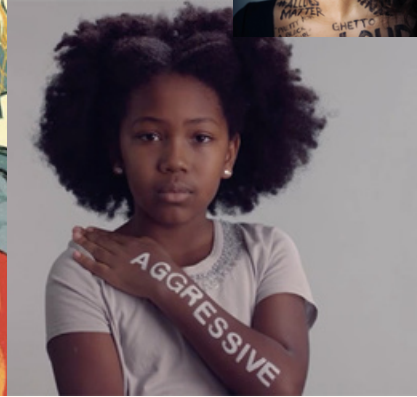
Grow like a tree coming out of the ground
to Grow like the kinky hair that sprouts from my scalp
Grow like the love I have in my heart for my family

I will not be the stereotype you want me to be
I will not wear the mask that you have laid out for me
I will not walk the way you want me to walk
I will not talk the way you want me to talk
I will not be the strong girl you want me to be

I will let my fierce tears flow down like pouring water down the drain
I will let myself be free from the chains that confine me
I will let myself be me.



"When it comes to the male gaze, Black Women have to choose between being ignored or being fetishized."



Black Woman
\ˈblak, ˈwumɪn.
1: Beautiful, powerful, resilient female of African descent with skin kissed by the sun.
2: Not a female dog or garden tool.

"The most disrespected woman in America, is the black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the black woman. The most neglected person in America, is the black woman."

- Malcolm X



"Black women have always been these vixens, these animalistic erotic women. Why can't we just be the sexy American girl next door?" - Tyra Banks on being a sex symbol



"As a Black woman, I find it so hard to be in control of my sexuality. White people have this conception of black women as hypersexualized and black men expect us to be celibate, wait for them, and raise their babies. I hate the fact that no matter what I do I'll fall into a stereotype."

The history of the stereotypes against Black Women.

My topic was the hypersexualization of black women in the media. Black girls were never allowed to be treated like children. Due to the harmful stereotypes pushed on them since birth. Black girls were always seen as less innocent and feminine than their white counterparts. Due to this, black girls are treated older than they actually are, and are treated more aggressively due to the notion that they are aggressive and loud. Black girls and women are constantly objectified in the media and oversexualized. Due to America's harmful portrayal of black girls, they are seen as nothing but violent belligerent, and ill-mannered. Due to these biases people have towards black girls, they are treated with no respect whatsoever. When black girls are children, they have to constantly worry about things like the clothes they wear, just how much skin is showing, and how will these things will affect how people see them and treat them. These harmful biases and stereotypes affect all black girls for the rest of their lives.

The history of where the stereotype of black women came to be all stems back to before the slave trade when Europeans came to visit Africa. The Europeans were shocked to see how few clothes the African women were wearing, the dances they would do, and the practices that some African tribes would practice. (Such as polygamy.) From seeing this, they took this as African women being women who were "hot constitution'd Ladies" who "are continually contriving stratagems how to gain a lover." In slavery, some black women were constantly pregnant, which helped fuel the stereotype of them having an uncontrollable sex drive. Black women were raped constantly, whether it was by their slave masters or other black men. Since they were considered property, it wasn't illegal to rape them. The lens of looking at black women as sexually promiscuous is still very much prevalent to this day. All most all the memorabilia of black women and girls from the 1900s, leave them being highly sexualized with large breasts, and buttocks. Along with always being pregnant. These stereotypes still affect Black women to this day.

CONTRIBUTERS PAGE

My name is Lapis Valido. I have chosen the topic of the sexualization of black women in the media because this is a topic that directly affects me, and has effected me and the experiences I have had in my short life span. These stereotypes and myths about black women and black girls will continue to affect me for the rest of my life.



By making this zine, I hope to shed light on the effects these stereotypes have on my community and how we need to change these terrible and disgusting views that people have about blackwomen.



Artist statement.

I tried to use as much creativity as possible while creating my zine. I tried to incorporate a lot of quotes and pictures, along with using different text placements to make the reading of my zine more interesting for the reader. The poem that I decided to base my poem submission on was “Raised By Women” by Kelly Norman Ellis. While making my poem, I tried to incorporate some metaphors, along with some repetition in my poem. My creative submission was a collage of different quotes and images. My collage complements my poem because the collage shows the things that are being talked about in my poem. “Stereotyping, Sexualization” And the feelings of black women who go through things like this every day. One creative choice that I tried to use and incorporate into my zine, was the use of the color red. In the black community, wearing red as a black girl is looked down upon because the color is seen as a “grown color.” I thought that using that color would go well with the topic.

Sources



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Lapis Valido