

Visit: 30 Americans at the New Britain Museum of American Art
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September 29th 2022

A thought-provoking and eye-grabbing exhibit that is located at the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut. I loved it! The exhibit had pieces of a variety of different mediums and dimensions: paint, photography, sculpture, pencil, black cutouts, photoshop, and more. As much as the pieces told different stories the whole exhibit was peaceful and the pieces' energy did not overlap each other. This exhibit really gave me the time to just think about each piece and be in the moment. I can relate my experience with this exhibit with the quote "When the pattern of your attention has changed, you render your reality differently. You begin to move and act in a different kind of world." (How to Do Nothing, Odell). This exhibit has done this for me - realizing there are so many perspectives to everything and deep thought. One of the pieces "Priceless" is a MasterCard commercial where the artist flipped the meaning of the advertisement and then related it to the abrupt death of his brother, who got shot, and the price of a death of a loved one. But his life was priceless. This exhibit really has made me more open-minded and curious to learn more, more about the purpose of these pieces, the questions they raise - can these pieces create change?, and the personal experiences behind them. Overall, I really enjoyed attending. I will share one of my favorite pieces below.



Ode to Joy created by Robert Colescott - This is a painting that has interesting and different parts to it – a pile of hamburgers, musical notes, a genie with a black face, two blue-faced skeleton creatures, a pot of gold, a figure with a bow and arrow, and a paint palette. This piece is very colorful which only adds to the possible meaning of it. After looking at this piece multiple times, I have concluded that it is “talking” about current American pieces of culture – hamburgers possibly meaning obesity or the symbolic nature of America, music notes meaning how we as Americans are so immersed in the music industry, music is all around us. Other specific parts of the piece that relate to American culture – bow and arrow (something that has been shown in movies. Does this relate to Cupid?), and a pot of gold. As well as American culture, I tried to piece together another meaning. To me, this piece shows how non-Blacks liked/like to try to shape Black individuals futures based on what they want for them in American society. This directly relates to the Caste system that is still going on today. The Caste system is a societal system that is in our culture that predetermines how you will be treated once you are born based on your skin color.