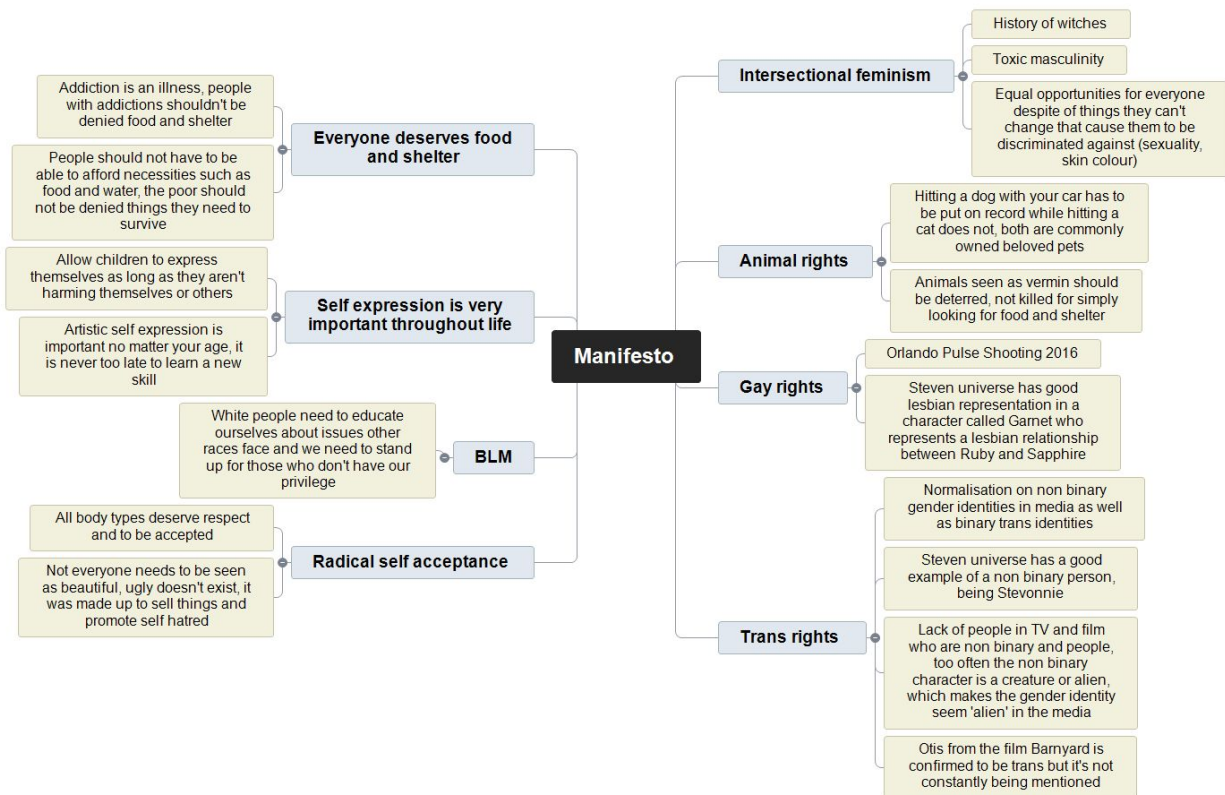


Manifesto



My eight statements that I agree with:

Trans rights
Gay rights
Intersectional feminism
Black lives matter
Radical self acceptance
Animal rights
Self expression is important

The three I will be writing about:

Trans rights
Black lives matter
Radical self acceptance

Transgender people are often rejected by friends, strangers and worst of all family. Many people who come out to their families as transgender are often kicked out of their homes at a young age, or forced to conform to the societal gender roles pushed onto them by traditional society ideals. In many cases parents will simply deny that their child isn't 'normal' and that it's just a phase. The transgender youth are able to figure out their identity at a younger age more recently because of awareness of different gender identities instead of just traditional cisgender men and women. The traditionalistic views some people still hold onto are extremely harmful, the stereotypes of the 'two sexes' ignores that there are many biologically intersex people. This means they "are born with physical, hormonal, or genetic features that are neither wholly female nor wholly male".(Amato, n.d.) These people are not an anomaly, being born intersex is not particularly rare. As a non binary person I believe that gender can have comfort to a lot of people such as cis people or binary trans people such as trans men or trans women, however I also think we need to let people fall outside of the binary as it is only a societal concept in the first place. I believe we should try to understand other people and hear things from their point of view, and learn to accept that just because someone isn't 'normal' to you doesn't mean you get to discriminate against them for who they are.

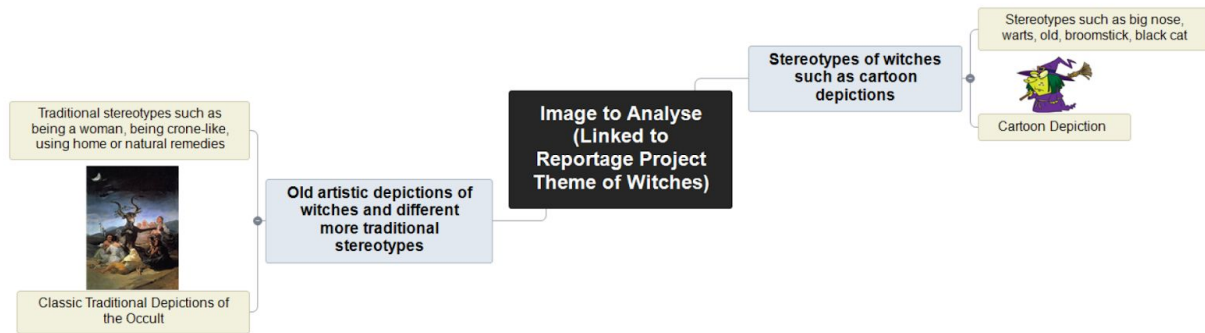
Black lives matter should not be a controversial statement, it is not saying black lives are above any other race's lives. The fact that it's deemed a radical thing to say demonstrates the institutional racism that still exists in our society. (Olusoga. D) It is not just America's problem, we absolutely cannot as people living in the UK say that 'America is awful, I'm so glad we're not like that'. We are almost as bad, some may say we are worse when it comes to microaggressions and prejudice in the workplace. As a white person I believe it is the duty of white people and people not involved in the BLM movement, that we educate ourselves, that we listen to people of colour, and that we stand up for a protect people of colour.

Body positivity is all well and good, however it focuses on the idea of beauty which is just a concept and is very subjective. Radical self acceptance is the movement that is teaching people that they don't have to be beautiful, everyone is unique and is attracted to different things. Your value is not determined by whether or not you are beautiful, you have value as a person simply because you are a person. (Uzelac. M) Your value does not come from your productivity either, in a capitalist society we are made to feel like this however we all have inherent value as living things. We do not have to be beautiful or massively productive to have value. Let people be unique, let people dress how they want to.

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Semiotic Analysis of an Image



My Chosen Image



The Witches' Rout (1520, Agostino Veneziano)

The witch is seen to be riding on top of a carriage made of bones. Carriages are often used by royalty to travel from one place to another, they are usually drawn by horses and have always been “largely used by royalty and aristocrats”. They were also “often elaborately decorated” as seen below with gold and very intricate designs. (five minute history)



The carriage in my chosen image depicting a witch is made up of a large carcass, this is a much darker version of the usual very ornate and decorative carriages we usually see. This not only suggests she is above all others in the image in status, but also suggests she is the worst of the worst. Corpses and creatures littering the image suggest this is a dangerous and evil place to be, which further suggests the witch is the queen of evil in a way as she rides through this land of death on a chariot of bones.

The chariot or carriage seems to be made of the decayed body of a large beast, this suggests she has slain the beast and is now lording her victory. This massive creature could suggest that she is a very powerful witch, as she now rides upon its corpse after slaughtering it. It could be compared to celebrities with their limousines and big cars, as it demonstrates their status and power to those around them. Almost a juxtaposition of how we would usually view royalty or someone famous, we would typically perceive them as being good and having earned their status. Whereas in this image the witch is clearly evil and cruel, she can be seen reaching for a child on her carriage and it is said she is reaching for it to eat it. When it comes to famous people in modern society, people are often inspired by them and want to be like them. (Scott Barry Kaufman) However in this case the witch is the polar opposite, she is what we absolutely do not want to become. She is chaos and destruction, death and evil.

Within this image it can be seen that the witches' carriage is being pulled by demons rather than horses like we would expect. This builds upon the concept of her being evil and chaos personified. It also suggests they may be in hell, as this is one of the associations with demons. From a semiotic point of view, the demons show that she is not only higher up than them in status and power, but that she is far worse, more evil and more disgusting than them. "The status of signs and to investigate the laws of their relationships" (Mouton de Gruyter), my analysis of this image is that at a first glance it looks dark and evil and hellish. However under further investigation I have discovered that it is actually a form of celebration, very different from our societal norms and expectations of what a celebration is, but a celebration nonetheless.



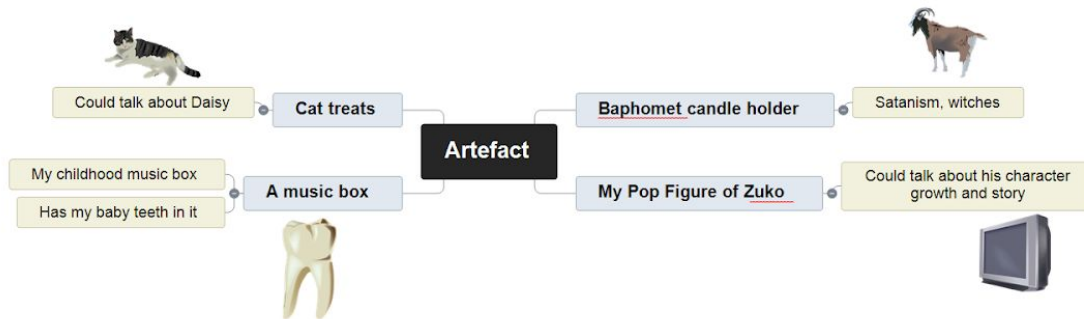
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Artefact Writing Piece



I chose to do this piece of writing on this music box.



The music box has my baby teeth in it and I have had it since I was a child. The box is pink with a pale long haired fairy sitting on the top of it. She is in a blue dress with yellow wings. She is surrounded with flowers, some of which look like lilies. White lilies can symbolise rejuvenation of the soul, they also mean purity. (<https://www.bloomandwild.com/lily-flower-meaning>)

The word fairy is derived from the Latin word fata, meaning fate. (<https://www.etymonline.com/word/fairy>) This has led some to believe that fairies, or fae, can impact the fate of humans.

Sometimes fairies are mischievous (<https://www.britannica.com/art/fairy>) and cause trouble for humans. It is believed that fairies and fae are different, the difference being that fairies are good and the fae are bad. This seems to me like a division created by us to allow us to categorise possible beings into our categories of morals. Whereas in reality morals have much more grey area than simply being black and white, right or wrong.

(<https://maggielynnheronheidel.com/2018/07/13/is-there-a-difference-between-fairies-and-faeries/>) It is believed that if you are to meet a fae to absolutely not give them your real name, as this gives them power and possibly even control over you. Instead, give them a nickname or a false name. It is also believed that if you know their name and tell them their own name when they ask you for yours, they will leave you alone.

There is also the myth of the Tooth Fairy, a fairy who takes the baby teeth that have fallen out of the mouths of children, if the child places a tooth under their pillow the tooth fairy will come in the night and exchange the tooth for money. The myth of the Tooth Fairy is quite a recent creation, if we look further back we find that “early Norse and European traditions suggest that when a child lost a baby tooth, it was buried to spare the child from hardships in the next life. “

(<https://www.123dentist.com/a-brief-history-of-the-tooth-fairy/>)

This link between the fairy on top of the box used for storing teeth, and the existence of the tooth fairy myth, is interesting. It could be coincidence or it could be because my mum bought it for keeping my childhood teeth in because it had a fairy on the top of it, and she saw the link prior to acquiring the item. Either way, it is interesting to me. I have had this box since I was young, my mum gave it to me to keep with me, and it gives me nostalgia to this day.



This box has all of my baby teeth besides one that my dad has in a small wooden box. Most of the teeth are riddled with holes and fillings, I'm not completely sure why I had so many fillings as a child. I still have quite a few in my adult teeth, but I look after my teeth well and always have done.

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