

Art History & Crafts with the Zuccaire Gallery



Celebrating Black History Month 2021

Art of Toyin Ojih Odutola

toyinojihodutola.com

Image: Ojih Odutola, This is How You Were Made; Final Stages
from A Countervailing Theory, 2019

The Artist: Toyin Ojih Odutola





All These Garlands Prove Nothing V, 2012 (top left), *All These Garlands Prove Nothing XI*, 2015 (bottom left), *Untitled (Us Three)*, 2015 (right)



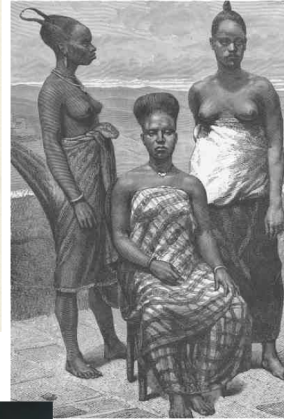
Hunting Season (Mother and Daughter), 2016



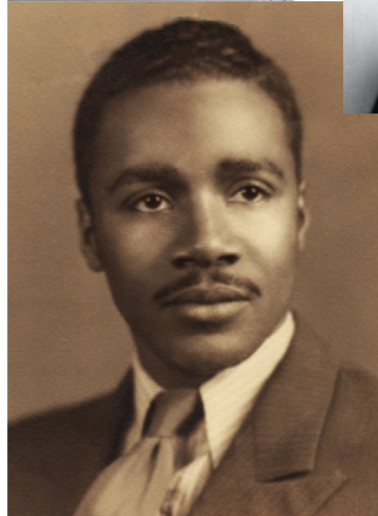
A Misunderstanding with the Mistress, 2016

Identity and Hair in the African-American Community Brief History

- One of the first steps in slavery: Shaving a persons head
 - Removal of identity by removing defining hairstyles that symbolized group, status, spirituality etc.
- Braiding, twists, knots etc. transferred to the Americas
 - Hairstyles largely used as a form of maintenance in harsh slavery conditions
- Hairstyling was one of the only forms of control and freedom
 - Not completely without restriction- Tignon Laws in Louisiana passed in 1786 forced black women to wear headwraps



Identity and Hair in the African-Community in America-Brief History



Identity and Hair in the African American Community

- Starting in the 1960's and 70's as the Black Power Movement gained momentum and influence, as did pride in black features including hair.
- Afro's, beaded braids, dreadlocks, knots etc. inspired by traditional African hairstyles popularized in the U.S.
 - Resisting against Eurocentric standards and embracing blackness
- Simultaneously, racist discrimination against hair was occurring. First court case involving hair discrimination was Jenkin vs. Blue Cross Mutual Hospital in 1976.
- Though legally black Americans could wear any hairstyle, hair discrimination in the workplace and in school persisted.



Identity and Hair in the African-American Community

- Decline in popularity of afro textured hair, rise in looser curls and straight hair in the 1980s and early 90s
 - Rise in chemical relaxer use
- Mid-late 90s and 2000s saw an increase in natural hair, waves, braids, twists, dreadlocks, weaves and other styles.
 - Increase in court cases against hair discrimination
- Recent publicized hair discrimination against students:
 - Malden Charter School suspensions of Deanna and Mya Scot for braids
 - Barbers Hill Independent School prohibiting Kaden Bradford and his cousin De'Andre Arnold from attending school with dreadlocks
- Unspoken rule of “professional” hair for black men and women (typically straight hair or low cut hair)

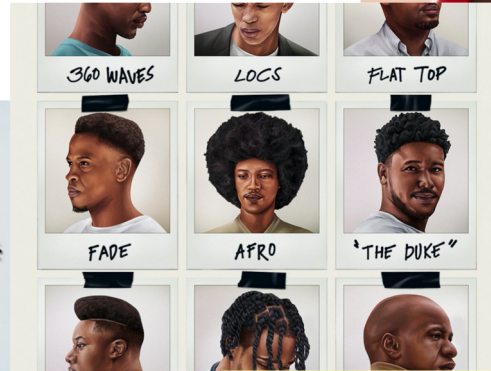
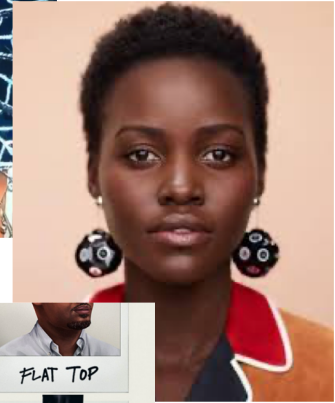
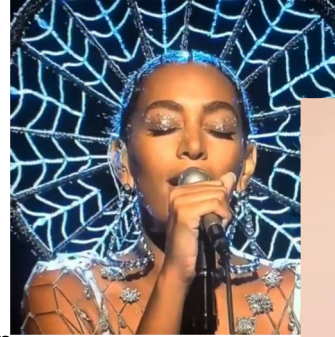


Identity and Hair in the African American Community

- Only 7 states have passed laws against hair discrimination:
 - California, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Colorado, Washington, Maryland
- Restrictions put on black people and how hair is worn fostered creativity and versatility
- Hair is a form of expression, and a personal representation of who someone is or wants to be
 - Hair is homage



Gerrel Saunders, CROWN,



Laetitia Kye





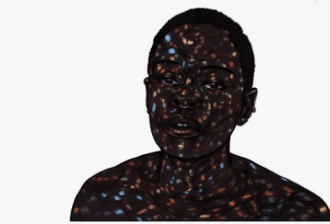
Installation view: "Toyin Ojih Odutola: My Country Has No Name," at Jack Shainman Gallery, May 16 – June 29, 2013. (Photo Courtesy of Jack Shainman Gallery)



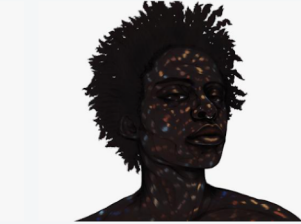
All these garlands prove nothing, 2012



All these garlands prove nothing III, 2012-2013



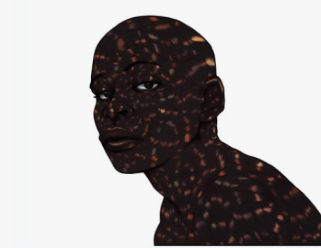
All these garlands prove nothing V, 2012



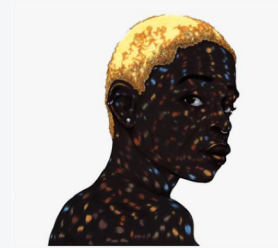
All these garlands prove nothing IV, 2013



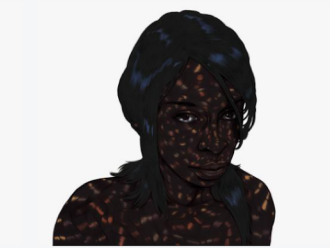
All these garlands prove nothing IX, 2013



All these garlands prove nothing VIII, 2013



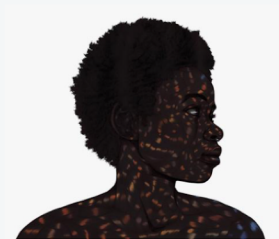
All these garlands prove nothing VI, 2013



All these garlands prove nothing XII, 2013



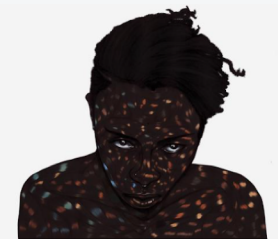
All these garlands prove nothing X, 2013



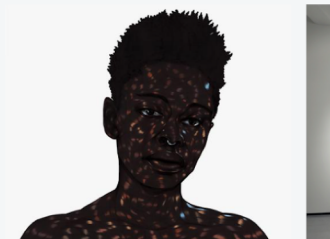
All these garlands prove nothing XI, 2013



All these garlands prove nothing, Redux, 2013



All these garlands prove nothing II, 2013



All these garlands prove nothing VII, 2013



Installation view: "Toyin Ojih Odutola: My Country Has No Name," at Jack Shainman Gallery, May 16 – June 29, 2013. (Photo Courtesy of Jack Shainman Gallery)

Create a Drawing in the Style of Toyin Ojih Odutola

Carbon paper

A picture printed on regular paper with several people in the composition.

Black paper

White paper.

Black colored pencil

White colored pencil

Glue

