



pact's

point of view

The newsletter for adoptive families with children of color

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# I Want You... To End Racism

by Hazel White

Adoptive mother Hazel White submitted one of the five winning monologues in artist Tony Labat's election-season performance competition, I Want You, a public art project at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The invitation was to make a demand of the public with a one-minute monologue beginning with Uncle Sam's "I Want You..." Participants were asked to consider what they would do if they had one minute to seize the voice of authority as Uncle Sam.

I Want You  
to find Barack Obama  
in the face of every young black man.

I Want You  
to recognize intelligence, kindness,  
and concern about our society in  
the faces of all young black men.

Most of us have been trained  
to believe that just one color, whiteness, is synonymous with goodness.

We've been persuaded, silently, against our integrity,  
to make young black men,  
like my son,  
and young black women, like Obama's daughters,  
invisible.

I Want You,  
I want us,  
to acknowledge that reality,  
un-train ourselves, open our hearts.

Reflecting on his own experience of racism,  
my 10-year-old child asked me to tell you this:  
"Think before you speak. And only speak positive words."

I Want You  
to End Racism,  
thought by thought,  
word by word.