

# WHITENESS: BLANC

by Paul Pinto

Where are you from?  
Um... Queens.  
No, where are you really from?  
(Blank!)  
I can't be from Queens?  
(Bla-bla-bla-blanca-blanca-blanca!)

Hmm.  
I'll say it again...  
W-w-w-watch out!  
Hmm. I'll say it again...

F'I'm honest I never soul searched too hard for ID  
(that's a privilege)

Hell yeah! It's privilege. Swim in that gold-leafed motherfucker til you shine!

Never soul-searched too hard for ID  
If it's free I'll probably grab it. Keep it stashed beside a lunchable for lunch time  
Doing fine. Thanks for asking.  
Never masked until the recent past (but that ain't true)  
I hid my gap-tooth smile and such and such and  
for a while I even contemplated hiding entirely.  
(C'mon!)

Based in America try'ng to get people to  
Stay in America feels like I'm eight years old  
Asking for energy in the deliv'ry from  
Children singing songs about the  
Spanish Inquisition

(Never had a problem)

Figures. (Figures?) Well  
99 percent of the time I'm on the lookout for comparison  
5 percent of the time I'm making moves  
20 percent of me is artist... Fuck  
Only 20 percent of me is artist  
24 percent is modest

The rest is loudest when the lights are on me, which is like 10 percent of the nights, ya?  
50 percent of me is Latino (whatever that means)  
20-80 percent of me is white (whatever that means)  
A hundred percent brown  
2.5 percent disenfranchised  
2.6 percent franchised  
6 percent of the day either making espressos or thinking about making espressos  
60 percent checking messages  
Zero percent in the woods, except emotionally  
That's like a hundred percent, but I guess we all are! (HAHA)

I guess I never had a problem with identification cuz I like pictures and they often have 'em associated! Ever always always everytime I part my fucking teeth I'm like:  
"Yeah! This is me. It's me. I'm here. I'm American. I'm American Gladiator on the inside!  
Don't like it!? Don't appreciate it!?!? Fuck off, Margaret!! I don't need you"

But like...

...on the inside...

...

very quietly...

...

so...

...

not to upset anyone...

...

because I just want to be liked by everyone all of the time (yeah)

...

No matter what

(C'mon!)

No matter the generation, degeneration is part of the slander (whether race, color or hue's part of the rancour) but I do appreciate the Irish taking it on the chin to be white (to be white) to be white in America.

Well, I get it, guys, if it's Catholics and Commies you're better off Islanding yourself.

There ain't no boat to take you inland.

But Brown?!

I just don't understand. It's kinda nice being Brown. I kinda like being Brown.

One day I'll describe myself as "complicated", but I'll really never be there. HAHAHA.

Maybe, though. Maybe, maybe I'll be there though. Maybe we'll all really be there. Maybe we've all been there already. From the getty, mistaken for misteco with the colors of the sun, I put on Colors of the Wind to get Vanessa feeling one with nature. Naturally sentimental, maybe that's a Latin thing but I don't think so.

(Never!)

We don't gotta wait for some post-racial mulatto future, it's never coming.

I'm all for shifting language. Shifting whiteness to Catholics and Commies like it's going out of style.

I'll say it again...

We are all

Some woke little pigeons

Some woke little pigeons

Whether or not you pause on this whiteness, it's in your sightlines like the sky.

In the side of your eye, what it feels like to be aside, like an aside, to the side, to the other side, choking on the scriptures (having spent some years ingesting) like the Bible, but like browner.

Browner?

Than the Bible?

Yeah! I know right.

I mean, what's browner than the Promised Land? (HAHAHA)

Every where immediately around it.

Race?

Wanna fit it!

Ethnicity?

Wanna fit in!

Age?

Wanna fit in!

Don't care! Wanna fit in!

I put "refuse to answer" until I was 22 and then racism ended (that's nice) so since then, I track back in ten-year intervals as:

other other other

colored colored colored

free mulatto free mulatto

mulatto mulatto mulatto

white!

mulatto

other other other other

white!

American!

mixed mixed

blank

Blank blank. Draw a blank. Point blank. Go blank.

Fill in the blank. Blank! Blank page. Blank check. Blank slate.

Blank shell. Blanking on the blanking on the blankety blank.

Blank! Blank wall. Blank space. Blank face.

Let that blank not be mistaken for an absence.

I like the blank.

I like the blank.

I keep the blank in my back pocket

For the Census and the Sears catalog and any motherfucker who asks me instead of yelling,

None of your goddamn business!

I keep that shit on the inside

Quietly on the inside

Quietly on the inside

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Blank expression.