

Unlivable Temples

Questions for Kyle Ozero from Maggie Wong

Gothwerk Residency
September 2020

“I was so goth I was born black...

We cannot exist without darkness”

- How would you describe your experience of the goth subculture? What attracts and disappoints you about the scene?
- Can you give us a little background on your band, the Breathing Light, and Black and Brown Fest?
- Can you describe how you see young Black goth kids producing cultural hybridities? Further, what do these shifts tell you about the history of rock and roll?

A Big Question

- Capitalism perpetuates a construction of power that is propped up by policies that allow for white supremacy. From you, I have learned to consider “goth” as a provocation for dealing with the loss of “normalcy.” To dismantle means having to detach from the world order, which conjures the Afropessimist idea that to defeat [antiblackness is to destroy the world](#). To be goth is to take on a perspective that both faces the ghosts of antiblackness while killing oppressive power structures. Taking on a goth orientation can help imagine and embrace a period of death and rebirth for a more just world. Or is the death and birth cycle about something more than progressive politics?

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- In one call, you mentioned Frank Lloyd Wright and how he made unlivable temples in CA dedicated his murdered lover and said, “It’s becoming history in a history.” Could you say more?
- Can you tell us about your experience building your motorcycle and the histories that fold into the experience? Are the histories the same as the unlivable temples?

Shifts and Wheelz

- How do you experience riding in suburban and rural Indiana?
- Is there a connection between the motorcycle experience and your experience in subcultures like punk and goth?
- Can you describe the experience of starting to work in a car dealership? What are connections you see between what you see at work and what the Gothwerk residents have discussed: the spiritual, deep time, impending climate apocalypse, death due to the pandemic, queer virtual spaces, desire, fear, horsepower, and power plays of capitalism?

Homework

- Can you give these listeners some homework? What movies should they watch, and why should they?
- Is there anything else I have missed that you want to talk about?