

01/13/26

music (with intention)



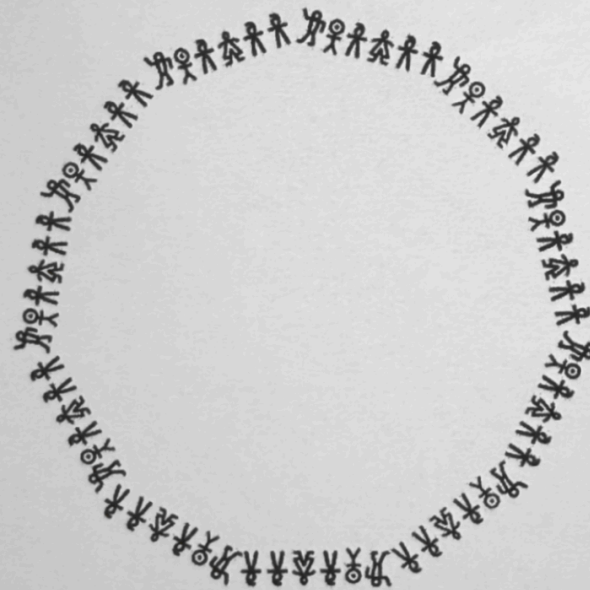
my fascination with community seems to trace back to my upbringing with nu metal. i thank this genre, as its hypocrisy introduced me to rap, which is what i later turned toward more intentionally. my relationship with nu-metal continued throughout my teenage years.

though the genre emerged from rock, deeply rooted in black cultural expression, it was upheld through whiteness and enabled white supremacy.

at the time, i recognized the commercialization of whiteness borrowing from blackness, but yet to understand the fundamental detachment from black struggle.

nu metal appealed to me because, in my early teenagehood, i only believed i had the option between transgression or conformity, before realizing or accepting my queerness. i was not aware that this would only fuel my individual alienation as opposed to forming collective marginalization.

by contrast, rap was born out of necessity in marginalized neighborhoods due to systematic violence and exclusion. nu metal erupted from suburbs more so as a fused genre rather than an inherent grassroots cultural movement.



i was vulnerable and chose to believe that people had to come to educate me. it was one of the few things that resulted in me dismissing larger issues such as cultural erasure and systematic exclusion. despite myself having to go through different experiences of class, i still function within privilege. my anger was turned inward, rage with no intent, and pain with no context. everything became psychologized. i treated systemic harm as something happening inside me rather than something created by larger structures.

from here, i allowed suffering to be an individual failure rather than using it as a confrontational power.

i don't owe anyone anything. i don't have to justify my queerness and my struggles, and i only learned this through having the expectation that that knowledge should be delivered to me rather than seek it out myself.

it is then, that i
understood, **the need**
for self-responsibility.