

savage servant

hottentot venus
parades naked in paris
shown for two shillings,
poked and prodded by stick and finger
for three, before her syphilitic death.
le muséum d'histoire naturelle
retains her corpse where
her skeleton and body cast
face away from the audience,
allowing her ass more attention.

her organs, dissected
like pre-med-school cadaver,
display in glass jars, parts
only properly returned
and buried in 2002
after eight years
of being dragged place to place
for unwarranted hands to roam
the edges of her curves.

this is what she knows:
to be touched
to entertain
to be consumed
over and over and over again

a woman's body never rests.

how to be black in amerikkka

1. don't;
melanin will always be a weapon
used against you.

2. if you must be black
be light skint
with pretty eyes
and hair that acts white
enough beauty to take
and repackage into tik tok trends

3. if you must be black
learn to code switch
say yessir no ma'am
(though that's just polite)
talk white
learn big words
change your accent
be respectful
announce yourself

4. do not give them a reason;
they will take it and run.
they will claim that you were running.

5. see no. 1

refusal to pledge

I refuse
to pledge allegiance
to the flag
of the United States of amerikkka
and to the corruption
to which it bows
one (divided) nation
under a limited idea of God
divisible by race gender orientation and sex
with liberty and justice
to well-bred, rich white men.