



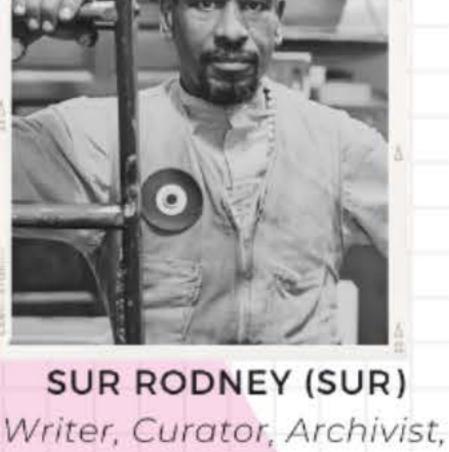
## INTERSECTIONS OF ART/ACTIVISM/RESEARCH IN HIV/AIDS



TAG Co-Founder and Executive Director



AIDS Activist and Visual Artist, a founding member of fierce pussy



Visual AIDS Project



Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health **JUNE 16, 2021** 



Study the Health and Safety of LGBTQI Prisoners

Viewing Instructions for: How to Survive a Plague

1 -2:30 PM EST

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTER @

bit.ly/intersections\_advocacy



### **HIV/AIDS Advocacy** We welcome the MIT community to join us for a webinar on the "Intersections of Art/Activism/Research in HIV/AIDS Advocacy" on June 16th from 1-2:30 pm.

Art/Activism/Research in

**Event: Intersections of** 

We will have a panel discussion with Mark Harrington, Joy Episalla, Gregg Gonsalves, Sur Rodney (Sur), and Michael Cox.We encourage everyone to watch the documentary How to Survive a

(free

for

MIT

at <a href="mailto:bit.ly/documentaryMIT">bit.ly/documentaryMIT</a>). This film highlights the HIV/AIDS advocacy movement of the 80s/90s, and specifically features the organizations ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, an international, grassroots political group working to end the AIDS pandemic) and TAG (Treatment Action Group, a research-based AIDS advocacy organization). Register now at bit.ly/intersections advocacy! This event is sponsored by MIT LGBTQ+ Grad, the MIT Women's and Gender Studies Program, the Institute Community and Equity Office, the MIT Biological Engineering Graduate Student

Board, and MIT LBGTQ+ Services.

advance

Plague

### The Education working group has a blog! The most recent blog post

celebrates AAPI Heritage

Links &

**Updates** 

Month with podcasts from Eugene Lee Yang and Tracy K. Smith and a spotlight on MIT History professor Emma Teng! Visit de mitte wordpress.com for this and other posts! Thank you to: Mirna Gouda and Anjali Chadha for being the graduate

Officer search committee! The values grad DEI working group recently held a successful event focused on obtaining graduate student feedback for a to-be-updated

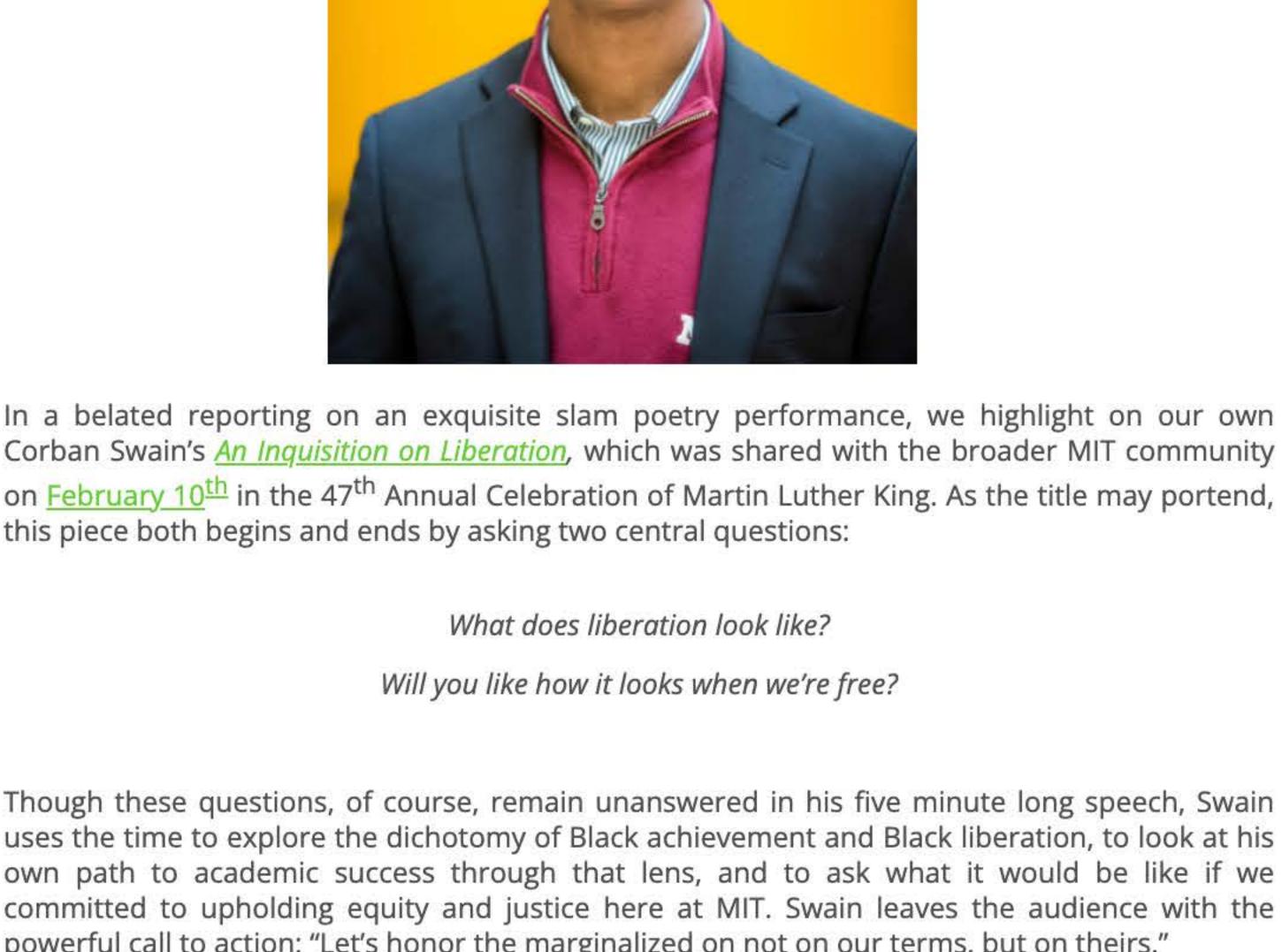
department values statement!

and undergraduate student

representatives on the DEI

Spotlight: Corban Swain's An Inquisition on Liberation

by Catherine Della Santina & Christine Zheng



powerful call to action: "Let's honor the marginalized on not on our terms, but on theirs." In speaking with Swain about his inspiration and motivation for the piece, he shared that throughout his undergraduate tenure at Washington University in St. Louis, poetry became a key form of expression as a medium that "communicates a feeling, a cause for justice, [and] a call to action and solidarity." Those who have been in the audience for Swain's performance of pieces like <u>Intellectual Brother</u> and <u>The Silence of Michael Brown</u> can undoubtably speak to the

power with which these calls to action are made, in between lines of beautifully woven

metaphors and carefully constructed narratives. Swain notes that much of the weight and

emotion behind his words are best conveyed through speech because "when you're sharing

something deeply moving, or sharing a part of yourself, or saying something very scathing and

looking right in ... someone's eye, the whole audience is seeing that." Even in a virtual setting,

Swain's dynamic cadence and compelling style of delivery continue to bring the words to life

through the screen. Despite being a national competitor in slam poetry, Swain still doesn't consider himself a poet because of the important differences between more classical poetry styles and the medium of spoken word which first took hold in the 1980s and is often attributed to Marc Kelly Smith (a.k.a. 'Slampapi' of Chicago). Swain likens the distinction to that of watercolor from acrylic paint—two different mediums with different nuanced capabilities. In a clever turn of phrase, he describes the purpose of the slam poetry movement as "giving rhyme and reason" to personal experiences that often reference bold, heavy issues such as race, gender, class, sexuality, discrimination,

war, religion and more. An Inquisition on Liberation fits in well with this tradition, as it explores the complex history and context of race in higher education and consequently poses questions that we must address in our efforts to center those at the margins and build justice from our missteps. Swain brings forth these ideas through a series of questions that expand upon Dr. D-L Stewart's proposition that we stand for equity & justice over diversity & inclusion. The distinction between these pairs of terms represents the deeper intention behind approaching these issues. As Swain explains, diversity and inclusion can lead to "representation, even in non-insignificant numbers, but this alone is not evidence that the culture, and the climate, and the environment is being made welcoming, honoring, supportive, and [that] people feel able to navigate as their whole selves." Until the most minoritized among us feel able and supported to do so, we must continue to pursue transformative efforts to promote equity and justice.

here and thanks friends Yaritza, Solome, Ufuoma, Christian, and Kirsty for their contributions throughout his writing process.

**Upcoming Events** 

Corban also credits Kimberly N. Foster's work as influential in the crafting of the work discussed

# MIT Forum for Equity: Women and Leadership

June 16th Intersection of Art, Activism, and Research in HIV/AIDS Advocacy Panel 1-2:30pm Register here

Register here

June 9th

11am-12pm

June 23rd

**Juneteenth MFA Community Celebration** June 19th Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (On-site) 10am-10pm Link

12-1pm **RSVP** here

Diversity in Financial Planning with Dr. Miranda Reiter

## **Contact Us**

Feedback? Upcoming events? Want to get involved? Get in touch at: be-dei-comms@mit.edu

To unsubscribe, email be-it@mit.edu or visit this link.