

Hello, dear readers, and welcome to a crucial blog entry on a topic that demands our attention and empathy: racism.

I'm a student who attends to the Walter-Lübcke-Schule, which is currently being blessed by being able to spend time in "das fliegende künstlerzimmer" and pay a visit to Dawid Liftinger and hear about his profession.

Our English course from year eleven decided to spend two lessons with Mr. Liftinger and talk with him, in English of course, about our recent topic which is about racism and police brutality in America.

Mr. Liftinger was kind enough to find artwork which contains this heavy topic. He showed us three different art projects and prepared questions to those and let us talk freely about our opinions and feelings about them.

The first artwork we saw was a music video from 2018. The video was produced by Donald Glover/Childish Gambino and is called "This Is America". The artist is a Black-American who decided to act out the issues in America. The video contains brutality and violence which is against Black people. Glover is the protagonist in this video and stays unharmed, but the other black characters suffer from police brutality and mass shootings. If we pay more attention to the lyrics or even just the title of the song and video it is shown that something like that became a regularity and is considered "normal" because, well, that's America the country of freedom and opportunity, as long as you're white or a classic American or rich. Which the song reflects to a little bit. In my opinion the protagonist stays unharmed in the beginning is because he is a figure of public with a decent amount of money. The lyrics "Go get your money, black man" and "Look how I'm geekin' out" describe the previous situation that I mentioned. At the end of the video, we see Glover running away because now he's the one being chased by police officers, which I think means that no matter how wealthy you are or how hard you work you still face this kind of disrespect and discrimination.

The second artwork Mr. Liftinger showed us was a painting by J. W. Turner from 1840. The painting is called "The Sklave Ship". The first second you look at the painting you'll probably notice a nice atmosphere where a ship is on the surface of water and the sun is setting in the background. The longer you look at it you'll see black people reaching to the sky. Body parts swimming around and lying on the surface. The hands and legs you see have shackles around them and are bleeding.

I think this artwork could be separated into two paintings. The upper half shows hope and is nice to look at and the lower part shows the rough reality for the majority of people of colour in the late eighteen-hundreds which is absolute horror.

The third art piece we saw was a video which explained the profession of the „forensic architecture“ group, based on the murder of Halit Yozgat. He was murdered in 2006 by a member of the NSU. The case was closed but reopened in 2017 when new evidence

surfaced. It's been decided to rebuild the building Halit Yozgat was shot in. The architecture was a rebuilt of the internet café where Halit Yozgat worked and was also murdered in. One of the visitors of that same café, which was also a suspect of the murder, is the only person who could've witnessed this tragedy. The forensic architecture team replayed every scenario possible to figure out if it even would be possible for the visitor to not see, hear or even smell the shots that been fired. The visitor himself says that he didn't see or hear anything. The Police believed him and let him walk free. However, Halit Yozgats father still believes that the visitor was the one who killed his son.

Mr. Liftinger explained how much diversity art has. These different artworks come with benefits but also disadvantages. For instance, these specific artworks we've seen were made to bring attention to the subject of racism. A disadvantage is that it can bring the same amount of hurt as much it brings attention to issues.

Art is a great way to bring attention to issues but the realities that it mostly gets mocked and overlooked ruins the opportunities.

Having these kind of issues and tragedies shown by art can be a step closer to change and more acceptance.

How much more people have to suffer until something happens.

I mean, who do they need to speak to, about if someone can redo their prophecy. We are that someone who could change their prophecy.