

DENISE ONEN & MARTINIQUE DU TOIT

PROJECT PROPOSAL

FOR AKADEMIE SCHLOSS SOLITUDE

EPILECTRIC

Project Proposal: EPILELECTRIC

Introduction

Through creative expression, Epilelectric is an effort for creatives Martinique du Toit and Denise Onen to voice suppressed truths surrounding current affairs in a post-Apartheid and post-colonial South Africa as well as in a current generation of identity seeking youths. South Africa now celebrates its 25th year as a democracy but we as South African youth, have been plagued by a new era of oppression in our existence as female and queer bodies. The voices of South African Youth have been raised on a national scale through recent fallist movements such as Rhodes Must Fall (2015) and Fees Must Fall (2016 - 2017), and discussion surrounding Afrocentrism and Decolonisation have followed thereafter. Our oppressed experience mirrors many of our fellow Africans and we seek to address this through the creative universal language of music and afro-futuristic use of technology. Within that same framework we would like to address our fellow internationals who experience similar obstacles.

The Name "Epilelectric" = Epilepsy + Epitec + Electric

"Epilepsy" is one of the most well known central nervous systems disorders and in our name is an allegory for Invisible Illness. Within South Africa, invisible illness are often seen within Religious (and commonly Christian), as well as Black households as supernatural disturbances, rather than a medical issue. We contextualize this in an effort to express the struggles of adjusting to societal norms within the framework of a neurodivergent mind. In turn, this also implies the relevance of other issues that relate to being a marginalized body.

There is much controversy surrounding the use of psychiatric medication and great difficulty accessing affordable mental health care in South Africa. This brings us to the reference of "Epitec" a medication that both du Toit and Onen have been on for mental health maintenance.

"Electric" implies that we will not only be composing works that relate to current societal issues but also make use of relevant, prominent and prevalent genres of our time:

Drum and bass, House, Techno, IDM etc; so as to emphasize the relationship between the millennial, iGen and Gen Alpha mind, as well as the music it absorbs.

Objective

The goal would be to release an album touching on the relevant issues plaguing the South African and further African community eg. Xenophobia, homophobia – where corrective rape is still common in South Africa and homophobic killings are prevalent in fellow African countries, destructive patriarchal systems and issues of inequality; laying bare their significance. Further issues such as mental health, the effects of social media and identity will also be touched on to connect with our wider International audience. Each piece would relate to a particular issue and execution would occur through the integration of other artistic discipline, where the participating performer/s should have a connection with the issue being discussed.

For example, when doing a piece on homophobia we would collaborate with another creative body that identifies with this subject.

As African youth, part of a transformative generation, the individuals du Toit and Onen, seek to use their lived experience to create a transformative educational dialogue through this project.

As seen in our pictures we are wearing masks and it is due to the following reasons.

1. We are hiding our individual identities in order to create an anonymous identity that seeks to represent a generation.
2. As queer neurodivergent womxn from South Africa, we have experienced that it is still a brave act to speak out and express oneself so freely and unapologetically. This stems from the systemic silencing of womxn that has been done for decades; thus, our masks reflects the past silencing of our sisters.

Epilectic is thus, the voice of a transformative generation.