

# Worldmaking Race Performance And The Work Of Creativity: Exploring the Intersection of Art, Identity, and Society

In a world where identity is constantly evolving and being shaped, the creative process becomes a powerful tool for individuals to express their experiences and challenge societal norms. The concept of worldmaking race performance highlights the role of art in exploring and reshaping the narratives surrounding race, fostering understanding and promoting positive change. This article delves into the work of creativity as a means to construct new worlds, redefine racial boundaries, and elevate marginalized voices.

## The Power of Art in Shaping Society

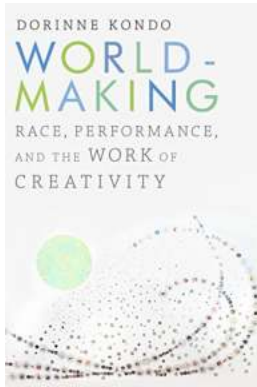
Art has long been regarded as a reflection of society, acting as a mirror that captures the triumphs, struggles, and complexities of the human experience. It offers a platform for individuals to share their stories and challenge dominant narratives. Worldmaking race performance refers to the intentional act of using artistic expression to dismantle racial stereotypes, redefine identities, and ultimately reshape the world in which we live.

Through various creative mediums such as theater, dance, visual arts, and literature, artists engage in the process of worldmaking, reconstructing and reimagining narratives that surround race. By doing so, they open up new possibilities for understanding, empathy, and social change.

**Worldmaking: Race, Performance, and the Work of Creativity** by stephanie curry (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 10905 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 362 pages



## **Redefining Racial Boundaries**

One of the key aspects of worldmaking race performance is its ability to redefine racial boundaries. By challenging existing notions of race and ethnicity, artists create alternative narratives that resist essentialism and celebrate individuality.

An example of this can be seen in the work of contemporary visual artist Yinka Shonibare. Through his vibrant and provocative installations, Shonibare explores questions of identity, colonialism, and globalization. His use of Dutch wax fabric, a material historically associated with African identity but actually manufactured in Europe, symbolizes the complex and constructed nature of racial categorizations.

Similarly, playwright and performer Anna Deavere Smith employs a unique form of documentary theater to delve into race-related issues in America. Through her one-woman shows, Smith embodies various characters and shares their testimonies, providing a multifaceted perspective on race and amplifying marginalized voices.

## **Elevating Marginalized Voices**

Another significant aspect of worldmaking race performance is its ability to amplify marginalized voices. By providing a platform for underrepresented communities, artists can challenge existing power dynamics and facilitate dialogue and understanding.

For instance, organizations like the Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter (BWA for BLM) and the Latinx Theater Commons are actively working to create spaces for artists of color to showcase their work and contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding race and social justice. Through festivals, workshops, and collaborative projects, these organizations empower artists to share their unique perspectives, promoting inclusivity and fostering solidarity.

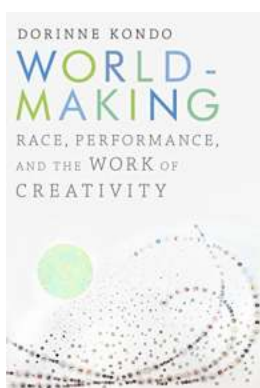
## **The Transformative Journey of Worldmaking**

Worldmaking race performance is not only about challenging existing narratives but also about creating new ones. By engaging actively in the worldmaking process, artists embark on a transformative journey that allows them to envision alternative futures and realities.

Acclaimed author Toni Morrison exemplifies this transformative power through her novels, which often center on the experiences of African Americans. Morrison's storytelling acts as a catalyst for connection, empathy, and healing. By crafting complex and nuanced characters, she dismantles stereotypes and offers readers a glimpse into the richness of the African American experience.

Worldmaking race performance is not limited to established artists; it extends to grassroots movements and community-based projects. From street art to spoken word poetry, individuals around the world are engaging in acts of creativity to shape their communities and challenge social inequalities.

The power of art to shape society, redefine racial boundaries, elevate marginalized voices, and create new worlds cannot be underestimated. Worldmaking race performance is a testament to the transformative potential of creativity in dismantling oppressive narratives and fostering understanding. By engaging actively in the work of creativity, we can actively contribute to a more inclusive and empathetic world, where the celebration of diversity and the pursuit of social justice go hand in hand.



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In this bold, innovative work, Dorinne Kondo theorizes the racialized structures of inequality that pervade theater and the arts. Grounded in twenty years of fieldwork as dramaturg and playwright, Kondo mobilizes critical race studies, affect theory, psychoanalysis, and dramatic writing to trenchantly analyze theater's work of creativity as theory: acting, writing, dramaturgy. Race-making occurs backstage in the creative process and through economic forces, institutional hierarchies, hiring practices, ideologies of artistic transcendence, and aesthetic form. For audiences, the arts produce racial affect--structurally over-determined ways affect can enhance or diminish life. Upending genre through scholarly interpretation, vivid vignettes, and Kondo's original play, Worldmaking

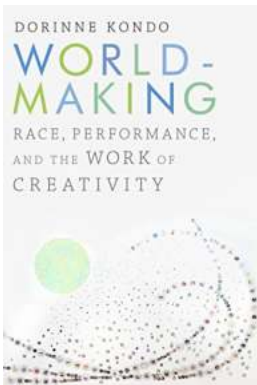
journeys from an initial romance with theater that is shattered by encounters with racism, toward what Kondo calls reparative creativity in the work of minoritarian artists Anna Deavere Smith, David Henry Hwang, and the author herself.

Worldmaking performs the potential for the arts to remake worlds, from theater worlds to psychic worlds to worldmaking visions for social transformation.



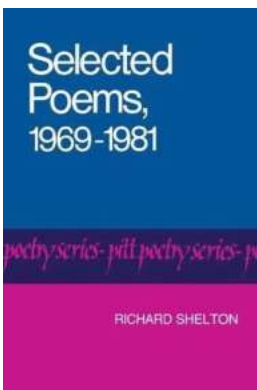
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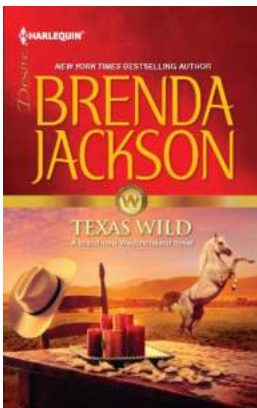
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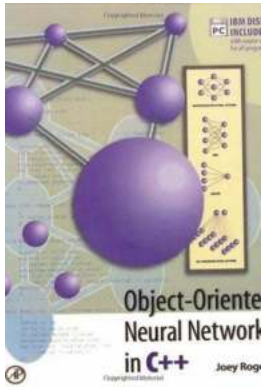
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