Prolific as well as stunning, the artist, Adrian Armstrong ( [@adrian-sux](https://tmblr.co/mK-jzqGcnyyaRXSn0h3lY1Q) )  is a veteran of 5/5. This is his second submission, and his work has done nothing but ***grown***.

Previously, he’d submitted his rendition of *The Birth of Venus,*stripped down and taken to its more basic elements. But also there was an important element which truly made the piece what is was, she was ***Black***. And again, Armstrong has done something similarly incredible. He has taken Michelangelo’s most famous painting from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and recreated it to his own aesthetic. “Blackening” both God and Adam, and stripping away all of the background imagery, forcing the viewer to see, and reconcile that this is a valid, and complete depiction of this artist’s reality.

Art exists as a reflection of culture. For Michelangelo, it was perfectly natural to depict God, as well as Adam as White people, because that was the cultural experience in which he underwent in his time and locale. **The same can be said for Armstrong**. It is evident that, for Armstron this piece is more of a **correction**, than a ~~recreation~~. As if there was always something wrong with it, and all Adam needed was a fade.

Even when they aren’t his self-portraits, it is evident that he depicts himself.

It is evident that Armstrong depicts what is important to him as an artist, as well as a Black man. The death of Prince was a tragic one in terms of Black Art, one that nearly every individual of the Black community felt personally. His rendering of Prince’s profile was stately, and honorable, while also showing many of the nuances which made Prince him. It is an excellent work which shows mastery of both the human anatomy, as well as colors (or lack thereof).

All in All, Adrian Armstrong’s submissions are better than those previous. His self-portraits display swathes of personality, his ~~recreations~~ correctionsshow that he has a message, as well as vision, and his tribute shows his depth, and cultural sensitivity. Armstrong, as a contemporary artist of the Black community, is an excellent example.

Thank you for your submission.

-5/5

[Adrian Armstrong](https://www.tumblr.com/edit/soulbruva3.tumblr.com)

[Tumblr](https://www.tumblr.com/edit/adrian-sux.tumblr.com)

[Website](https://www.tumblr.com/edit/adrianarmstrongart.com)

[Store](https://www.tumblr.com/edit/adrianarmstrongart.bigcartel.com)