02/24 Research Abstract – Keren Dillard

For my final project, I am interested in exploring the state of being for what I would reference as a double laborer through Marxist teaching, the Black African Slave Woman in the United States. I consider the Black slave woman to be a double laborer because the most natural aspect of her life has found itself entangled within the commoditization of production – the birth of her children. Because the Black slave woman does not belong to herself, neither do her children. Because the product of Black intimacy is of value, how might we define the agency of the Black body as a laborer vs. a worker?

This is just an initial framework of thought for how I would approach this topic. I would like to develop the project somewhere along the lines of uncovering and discovering some of the various methods of which the Black Woman’s body has become the central sustainer of American infrastructure, and how the documentation of the labor/work production of black children in slavery has fed this system that keeps the Black Woman’s body in a state of subjectivity.