

Design for This Century

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Response

This week's reading can be generally grouped into two categories: equality and representation. We humans occupy the majority of the Earth's resources and power, while produce nothing useful to our globe. Plants, in contrary, provide oxygen, minerals, and food to the the ecosystem. The justification of the hierarchy that humans are regarded as top of the ecosystem is not legitimate in terms of the contributions of humans and plantations of Earth. Some may argue that humans are highly intelligent and emotionally capable of justifying our needs and demands. However, plants are also self-expressive using electromagnetic waves as a form of emotions. In an experiment conducted by scientists, plants can raise themselves by signalling their needs for water and nutrients. In this sense, can we still say humans are the only emotionally capable creatures to justify our needs. In this unbalanced hierarchy of humans being on top of the ecosystem, we developed this sense of selfishness and legitimacy to rule, even though we do no contribution to the entire world except for satisfying our selfish needs.

Even in the human society, equality is barely achieved within racial and sexual groups. Science fictions, music videos, or any form of media all portrait through a biased lens of distortion. We depict black as dangerous, or overly simplified comedians-like figures in movies. We depict women only as sexy, brainless animals and creatures that are succumb to men. All of these remind us designers that the mainstream bombarding of information cannot be taken as what it is. We need to think about issues in a prolonged timeline and examine every single choice we make as designer. Are we facilitating this tilted bias of perceptions of things? Or can we work together and rethink about how to correct it. The empire was built to rule people under the regime and kept us in the kingdom. It takes both courage and wits to challenge the foundations of the empire and help bring out a flattened, equal world.

