

Cardinal Compositions

University of Louisville

Othered

Samantha Lamkin

Cardinal Compositions, vol. 5 (2021), pp. 28-29.

Poet's Statement on the Piece

"Othered" (2021) is a piece about my experience as bi-racial person in the United States. I have always felt that I was never fully accepted from either half of my heritage. I wrote "Othered" because in these times of growing hatred towards AAPI, I have felt more isolated than ever before. Now, I am not sure whether I am viewed as Asian enough and if this will protect me from the harassment. Although I've struggled with this, conversations with other mixed people have helped me feel validated in who I am. Even if we might not share the exact same ethnicity, it's comforting to know someone else "othered" in the same way.

Poet's Bio

Samantha Lamkin (b. 2000) is a Filipino-American artist born in Louisville, KY. She is currently studying under Brittany MacWilliams in the BM in Violin Performance program at University of Louisville. As well as being a musician, Samantha is a writer focusing on her experiences as a mixed person in the United States and representation in popular culture. Most recently, Samantha's article "She Has It All: Love and Character Depth in Jane the Virgin" was published in *Cardinal Compositions* in 2020.

Othered

The ancient gods found beauty in each of their creations
Merging two halves to make a perfect child of a unique design

They found the mixture of cultures to be beautiful
But they did not account for the sins of humanity

Humans sneered and snapped at the different children
Taunting the halves as if it were a game

The creators looked down and wept for their special children and wondered if the beauty of their
creations was worth the torment

Neither half would cherish these mixed children
And they were forced to wander the Earth, othered by society
Only finding solace in those like them