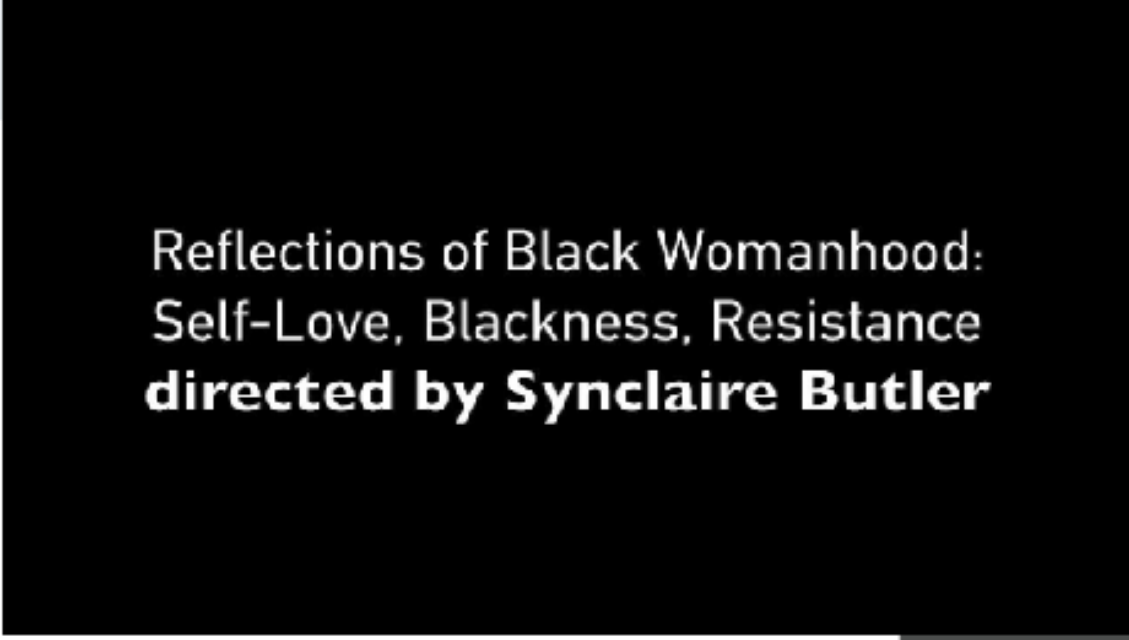

Self-Loving My Black Girl Magic... In a Dutch Context

By: Synclaire Butler



Reflections of Black Womanhood:
Self-Love, Blackness, Resistance
directed by Synclaire Butler

This project is an analysis of the stories from politically self-identified black women and their experiences of resistance in the Netherlands. My research combines a written Independent Study Project (ISP) and a micro-documentary, which uncover the ways in which love has, and continues to play a role in resistance amongst black women in the Netherlands. Threading the themes of race, resistance, and love together, I created my main research question: How do black women in the Netherlands experience love as a form of resistance in a post-colonial society? The way in which race is constructed and understood is very unique in the Netherlands due to the claim of being a “color blind” society. In a place where race is not seen as an “issue,” conversations surrounding racism remain taboo.

Through conducting oral history interviews with five self-identified black women, the research and mini-documentary reveal not only the prevalence of racism in Dutch culture, but most importantly the ways in which self-love and loving other women of color, proves to be influential in the ways these women navigate resistance. This study has led me to believe in the necessity for a love ethic within the anti-racism struggle, which proves to be essential for the healing and affirmation of black female bodies and in turn humanity.