

# **The Why's, The Woke and The Winning:**

Hip Hop-Creative Conscious for “Coming Through” Marginalization

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## Abstract

Being a graduate of political science as well as an artist, activist, entrepreneur, and self-identified Black-female-immigrant-Millennial—Emma Lee has combined creative, critical and global awareness to connect intersecting identities and dissect power politics. She believes lyrical, musical and visual forms allow more access to insights often unheard if spoken at all. This project presents three Hip Hop-centric songs illustrating how one perspective is constantly affected by and affecting many others. The leverage possible in representation, pop culture, business, politics and social impact are further demonstrated in these creative and analytical connections.

**“Queens”** – “What’s a ‘bad bitch’ to a queen? If you can be both, what do they mean?” Are the media-dominating images of beauty and success taming, complicating and demeaning the potential of women and LGBTQ identities, or giving more options?

**“Hugo Pinell”** – A secret meeting is held with prison, police brutality, social justice and community activists to address the urgent need to organize and agitate for change. It is headed by a woman, a subdued commonality in the legacy of resistance movements.

**“Manifest Destiny (Pt. I&II)”** – Transcendence of the “American Dream” and “Amerikkkan Nightmare” experiences journeyed through legends of past and change agents of present. A bridging of the Law of Attraction concept of “deliberate creation” with the 19th century attitude of divine-expansion, Native American genocide and Mexican War establishing the United States.