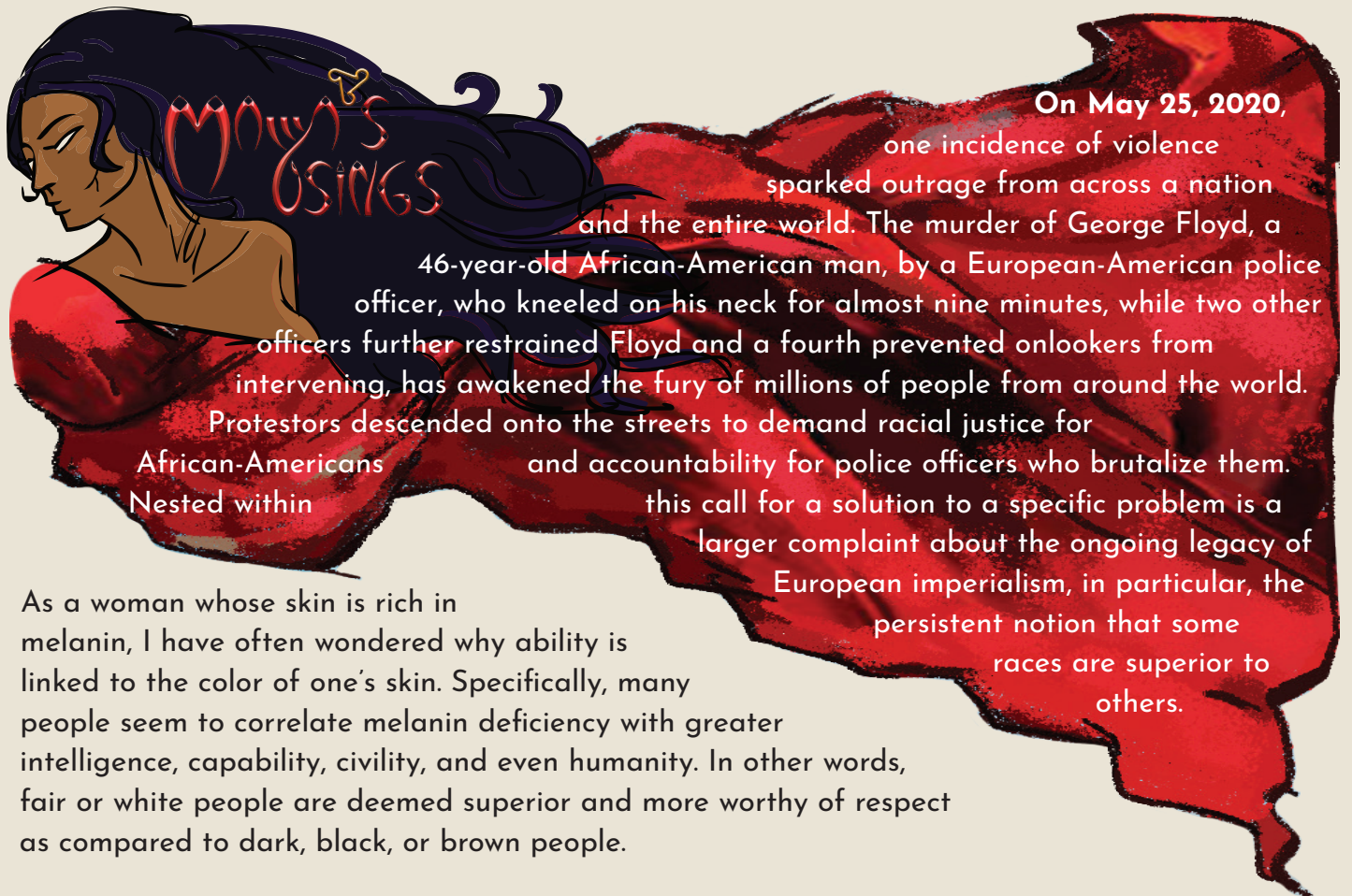




RACISM AND OUTRAGE

28

June, 2020 Issue



As a woman whose skin is rich in melanin, I have often wondered why ability is linked to the color of one's skin. Specifically, many people seem to correlate melanin deficiency with greater intelligence, capability, civility, and even humanity. In other words, fair or white people are deemed superior and more worthy of respect as compared to dark, black, or brown people.

This prejudiced, and scientifically uncorroborated, view of human beings has been used to justify the humiliation, rape, pillage, and destruction of billions of people for at least the past six centuries. Tragically, the legacy of European imperialism also extends to the abuse of the world's ecosystems. Thousands of ecosystems across the earth have been devastated by the toxic mix of racism and greed that provides the foundation for colonial oppression. The links between racism, poverty, disease, political repression, and climate change are highly complex, not least of all due to the propaganda that has accompanied the (d)evolution of human societies into interconnected cogs in a global wheel. Svevi Avatar presents in some ways a simpler world, in which these links can be explored in depth, carrying the hope of understanding.

On May 25, 2020, one incidence of violence sparked outrage from across a nation and the entire world. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, by a European-American police officer, who kneeled on his neck for almost nine minutes, while two other officers further restrained Floyd and a fourth prevented onlookers from intervening, has awakened the fury of millions of people from around the world. Protestors descended onto the streets to demand racial justice for African-Americans and accountability for police officers who brutalize them. Nested within this call for a solution to a specific problem is a larger complaint about the ongoing legacy of European imperialism, in particular, the persistent notion that some races are superior to others.



Art Corner



Bringing the universe of Svevi Avatar to life in visual form is an essential part of the journey into its core. Each frame of the graphic novella is replete with rich symbolism both within and outside the alternate reality of Svevi Avatar. This week we feature a scene from the oldest quarter of Cardiff, a settlement within Constantina.

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Behind the scenes

Amalesh Das, the Director of Art, shares his thought process as he began painting the image of **Maya Svekak**. "Maya's inner strength really captivated me," Amalesh says, contemplating Maya's painting. "Red is the color of passion, conviction, and power. And so I knew that red would have to be her color. Not just any red. A bright, vibrant red that would cause people to stop and

take a moment to look at her and really think about her."

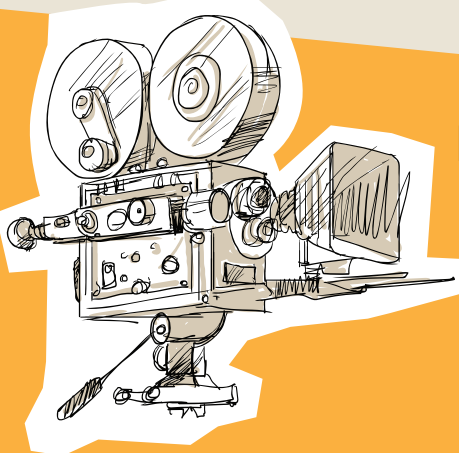
When asked about Maya's expression, Amalesh responds, "She's a warrior. She fights for what she believes in, not necessarily through physical battle, but definitely through the power of her convictions and steadfastness."

She's full of compassion for injustice. She is driven to around her, so that people don't this means that she is not at peace.

It's not an easy feat to capture all of these conflicting emotions. But ultimately, what wins over is a fierce nobility in her face and her stance." Amalesh adds with a chuckle, "She really is my favorite character in the Svek Avatar universe. And I'm not just saying that because I painted her!"

those who are victims of change the world have to suffer. And

an easy feat to



Featured Video



<https://tinyurl.com/yawelhx2>

Svevi Avatar Teaser 1 (June 2020)

Next issue 12 July, 2020 ► **IGNORANCE OR PREJUDICE?**