

5-1-2019

That is so Gay

Daniel Nemec
Roger Williams University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.rwu.edu/nadi>

 Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [Sociology of Culture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nemec, Daniel (2019) "That is so Gay," *New and Dangerous Ideas*: Vol. 2 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://docs.rwu.edu/nadi/vol2/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at DOCS@RWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in New and Dangerous Ideas by an authorized editor of DOCS@RWU. For more information, please contact mwu@rwu.edu.

THAT IS SO GAY



The piece I created shows the complex and varied subject that is identity, specifically pertaining to the queer community. Many people see the pride flag and see the colors as separate but connected. For me, I see the infinite shades produced from the colors as the flag waves. I wanted to recreate the variation of colors in my piece to show the variation and multitude of everyone's own experiences pertaining to queerness. By manipulating different colored paper, I was able to create not only a complex texture but also a complex amount of tones and hues, showing the many variations of the queer identity. The piece is an attempt to take back the word "gay" and to redefine it for the community.

As someone who identifies within the queer spectrum, I have struggled for many years to figure out what "queer" and "gay" mean to me. It has been a difficult journey to find my personal identity. I am still on the journey. Society paints a picture of the gay identity as very stereotypical groupings, none of which I have found myself within. This, I feel, made the journey harder. Not only did I find myself lost from the social norm of being straight; I also do not identify with the social norm of what it means to be gay. Throughout my ongoing journey, I have always been hurt by a phrase I would constantly hear, "That is so gay". It hurt to hear this, but it hurt more that I never had the strength or courage to correct those who said it. It wasn't until recently that I started to find comfort within myself and my identity. It was then that I was able to see the hurt that this phrase caused me and many others from the queer community.

The societal pressure caused by power struggles and oppression for generations has led us to, as I see it, a very trying time that has the ability to be a crossroad for the future. Previously, when discussing queerness, there have been many events that have pivoted the general opinion of those who identify as queer. We are currently at a time when identity is taking on new meaning for many people and has new recognition by many. I believe that people of all beliefs and backgrounds can understand the deep, complex, and immensely varied identities for people in the queer community, not just the stereotypical identities that society has created, but also the hidden and under represented identities.

Daniel Nemec