



**I WANT YOU
TO END RACISM,
THOUGHT BY THOUGHT, WORD BY WORD.**

REFLECTING ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE OF RACISM, MY 10-YEAR-OLD SON
ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THIS: "THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK.
AND ONLY SPEAK POSITIVE WORDS." — HAZEL WHITE

*1-minute monologue, one of five publicly voted winners in Tony Labat's
2008 SFMOMA public art project "I Want You . . ."*

I want you to find Barack Obama
in the face of every young black man.

I want you to
recognize intelligence, kindness,
and concern about our society in
the faces of all young black men.

Most of us have been trained
to believe that just one color, whiteness, is synonymous with goodness.

We've been persuaded, silently, against our integrity,
to make young black men,
like my son,
and young black women, like Obama's daughters,
invisible.

I want you, I want us, to
acknowledge that reality,
un-train ourselves, open our hearts.

Reflecting on his own experience of racism,
my 10-year-old child asked me to tell you this:
"Think before you speak. And only speak positive words."

I want you
to end racism,
thought by thought,
word by word.