

## White Universe Dark Matter: An Artist Statement Joe Lewis '22

What if the universe were white?

"...if the Universe appeared to be white instead of black, it would mean that it's infinitely old, infinitely big, and static at the same time. That would make it a different Universe altogether." <sup>1</sup>

A different universe indeed...

I remember reading that "Purity" and "Immensity" were the building blocks of modernism. As I grew older, it became evident that those words were the taproots of "Privilege" instead of foundations. I admit the colorblindness of it all blinded me. For years, I watched the incongruity of a static, old universe with a finite number of principals rumble through an infinitely large space that would be brighter if it had left a place for opposing views of the Universe. Suppose it didn't crush us with its cosmic weight and claims of superiority.

It's very seductive, the language, the conventions, the monuments, the control. Like pi, for instance, it goes on forever and ever and ever. But, once I took off those star-framed glasses - those enormous self-luminous celestial bodies of gas were perforated by dark matter, revealing its truth; standing in the light is nowhere near perfect. And those of us who choose not to acquiesce, though burdened by shadows, especially when we shine, must shine a hard light on the hegemony of the times until the Universe reflects our light.

Now, if planets were cubes instead of spheres, that's another story.

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<sup>1</sup> "What If the Universe Was White Instead of Black?" Maryna Hordiienko, SCIENCE: March 7, 2019