

## **Simon Says**

Transcript Export

<https://simonsays.ai>

### **Conrado Muluc: Artist Reflection for American Muslim Futures**

FULL TRANSCRIPT (without timecode)

Peace peace peace.

Thank you so much for viewing my work. I am glad you are here and I want you to know that I appreciate you, I really do. My name is Conrado Muluc. I'm a multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia.

I create socially conscious and introspective hip-hop music focused on documenting the truth and uplifting my community. I'm also a professional photographer/videographer specializing in portraits, events and documentary style work.

To me a just future is one where people are not struggling to make ends meet, or the color of your skin, or your religion is not looked down upon by others. But we can live in true prosperity and create a society where everyone is equal.

Where women get paid the same as men and are not mistreated. Where our children are taught their true history. Where our lives are not forsaken for mass profit. Where there is no third world but one world without borders. Where people are striving not surviving and where art uplifts others.

I'm a son of immigrants who grew up below the poverty line. Struggle has shown me how unjust the world can be but my community has shown me what is possible. The love I see everyday from others keeps me going. My ancestors guide me forward and nature helps me stay present, as I work with others to create a better world.

So this song, this piece is entitled "Do Anything But Stop", and it's inspired by a graffiti artist and activist from D.C. who passed away a couple years ago. His artist name was DABS. Which stands for "do anything but stop." This is a saying that has empowered his friends and family.

This saying has also reached me in a moment in my life where I wanted to stop creating and I felt burnt out. Sonically, the song is influenced by the '90s era hip-hop music and features a sample from A Tribe Called Quest. The lyrics have a poetic sense that shows a glimpse into who I am and where I come from.

This is followed by a hook that tells people never give up. To continue pushing forward no matter the hardships that you may face. Like the hook says "no negativity killin' this energy, Imma rock to the end of me, till the lack of energy, gets the best of me buildin' a legacy."

Each verse references a 20th century African-American artist who I look up to. These are artists who have created historical works of art that will live on forever. The theme in this song is about triumph because, we come from greatness and are destined to make it.

This shows my vision for a just future because it uplifts others to always do their best. It's the type of hip-hop music with the positive message that reminds us that our past does not determine our future.

The American Muslim Futures exhibit is important because, this is an exhibit that shows the work of a better tomorrow. That can connect people from all walks of life by showing them what is possible.

This is an exhibit that shows a glimpse into what many of us are fighting for. It shines a light in a moment of our history where everything can feel dark and grim. It's important to dream and to work towards those dreams and making them a reality. It's also a reminder of how far we've come and how far we need to go.

I hope this exhibit inspires you the way it has inspired me.

Much love.