



This is fashwave, the suicidal retro-futurist art of the alt-right

By Jack Smith IV | Jan. 12, 2018



In the online art workshops of the white nationalist alt right, young neo-Nazis and neo-fascists trade simple aesthetic tips: Consider your color scheme in advance, build your image in sections of thirds, abandon gradients and add a soft stroke to the text.

The manic artwork builds slowly, with marble busts of Greco-Roman

<https://mic.com/articles/187379/this-is-fashwave-the-suicidal-retro-futurist-art-of-the-alt-right>

Excerpt:

To take these statues on as symbols of long-lost white greatness plays on long-held historical misreadings of European history. As art critic Ben Davis told *Mic*, Greek sculpture was often gawdy, covered in color and bedazzled with gemstones. Even the premise that these ancient civilizations were “white” in the modern sense is tenuous.

“These disconnected, alienated, rootless people are literally typing in ‘great European art’ and taking these images on as an identity,” Davis said of the fashwave artists. “But these are the most classic, tourist clichés of art.”

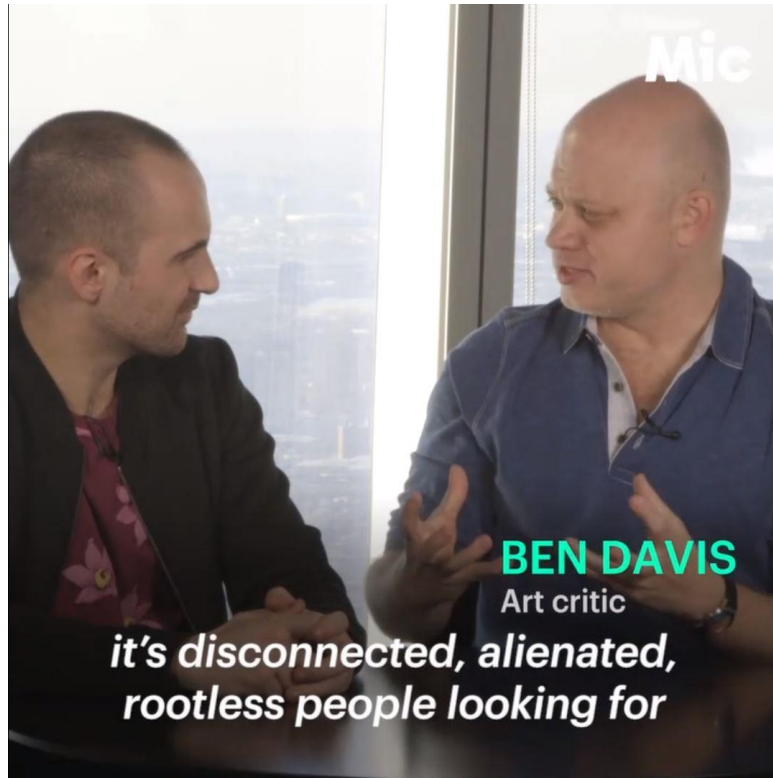
In fact, reverse-engineering fashwave artwork often proves Davis’ thesis. Several images posted as original fashwave art were found by *Mic* to be plagiarized from other digital artists, with light colorization effects added and neo-Nazi imagery superimposed. Like any propaganda, the art itself is cheap. Still, nestled in the inherent contradictions is an authentic expression of the surrealist dread and alienation that provides the foundation for hate to thrive.



This image is essentially plagiarized by an “art right” account, taking an original sci-fi image and superimposing a neo-Nazi icon. Twitter

And the accompanying video interview with Jack Smith IV:

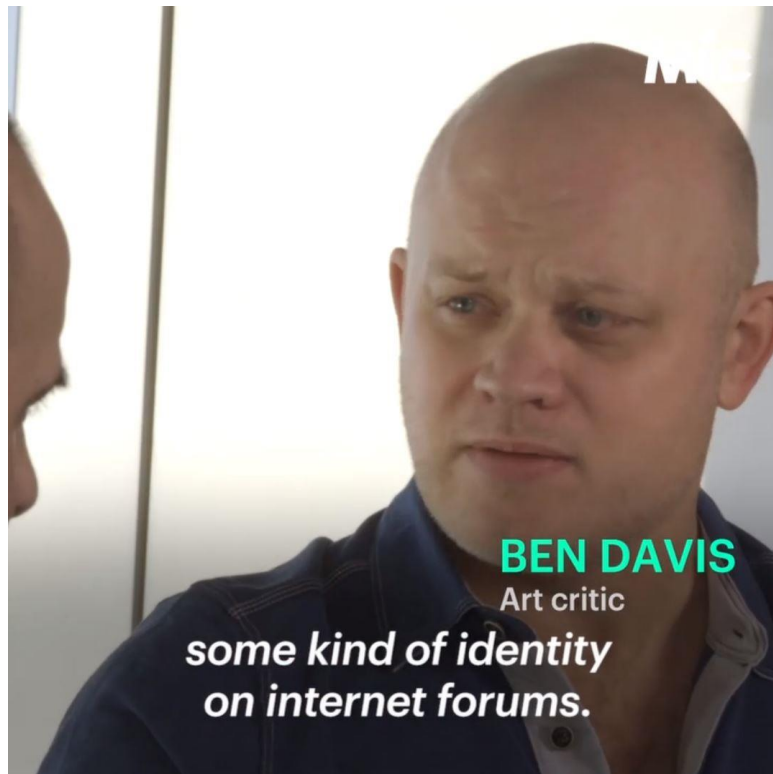




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