



KARWAI TANG

Fashion

Tracee Ellis Ross' Met Gala Look Paid Tribute to Black Art

It was inspired by artist Lorraine O'Grady.

BY GIANLUCA RUSSO

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The annual **Met Gala** is the most important night of the year for fashion professionals. This year's theme was "Camp: Notes on Fashion," which is all about being over-the-top in expressing your identity, but often times this conversation is centered around whiteness. This year's Met Gala pink carpet, however, offered a unique opportunity for attendees to embrace and educate on the impact people of color have had on camp.

Tracee Ellis Ross, of course, took full advantage of the theme to draw attention to the history of black people in camp. For the gala, Tracee wore a sleek black dress by Moschino. The highlight of the outfit, however, was the literal gold picture frame she held in front of her face while walking on the red carpet. Many thought she brought the frame to emphasize the theme of art, but the meaning goes much further than that.

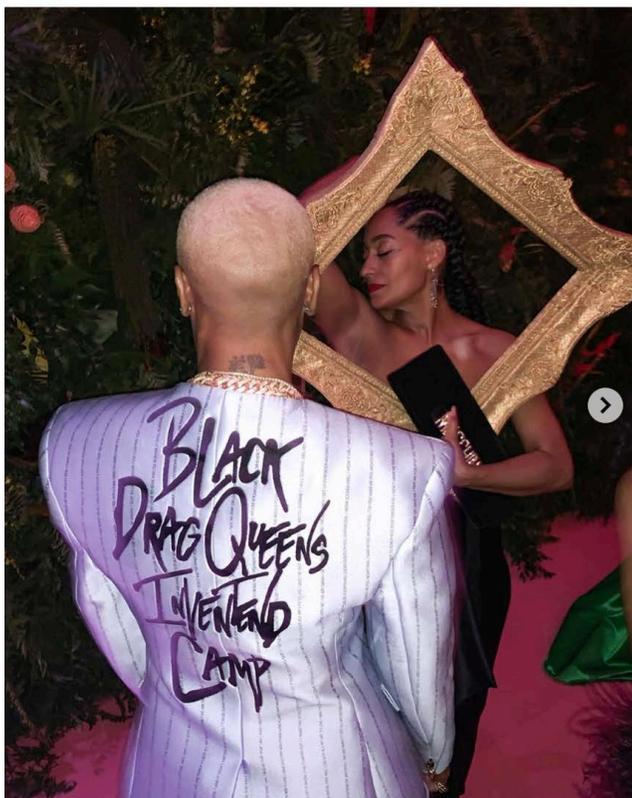
In an **Instagram post showcasing the look**, Tracee explained the picture frame pays tribute to artist **Lorraine O'Grady**. She wrote, "RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE ~ black camp. Thank you #lorraineogrady for existing and creating 'Art Is.'"



traceeellisross

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

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RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE ~ black camp
thank you #lorraineogrady for existing and creating "art is".
thank you @bronze_bombshel for pulling the reference. and
thank you @jeremyoharris for taking this fab photo of
@lenawaithe and i.
[#metgala](#)

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Fashion expert [Shelby Ivey Christie](#) took to [Twitter](#) to further explain the tribute, writing, "People used to show up to the African American Day parade in Harlem with frames around their faces!"

The outfit opened the eyes of many to the contributions black men and women have had on camp fashion. One user commented on Tracee's post saying, "Thank u for the history lesson" while another said, "This was the most sickening combo of outfits of the night. So much history so much beauty. I loved."

Tracee posed with [Lena Waithe](#) in the photo who also used the night as an opportunity to shine a light on black camp, wearing a blazer that had the words "Black drag queens invented camp" across the back. Shoutout to these two for bringing a much needed history lessons to the Met Gala.