



DETROIT ABOLITION MUSEUM

ABOLITION: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW, EVERYDAY!

A Curation Partnership by:
Wayne State University, DAYUM, Detroit
Heals Detroit



**"...JAIL IS HELL
TO BE IN"**

ZINE CONTRIBUTORS

**"ANGELA
DAVIS MUST
GO FREE..
BLACK
PEOPLE WILL
BE FREE."**

D'NYRIA FORRIS

GRACE FRANKLIN

CIERRA GEE

MICAH GILL

RUTA HAILU

ASIA HUGHES

OLIVIA JONES

SHAYLA JONES

TAMERA MIDDLEBROOKS

MI'KAH WEST

JANIALA YOUNG

AJA REYNOLDS

JULIA CUNEO

SIRRITA DARBY

BRIANNA DONALD

HANNAH LEWIS

DETROIT



Angela

@olive-ink-

@xoxo-lira



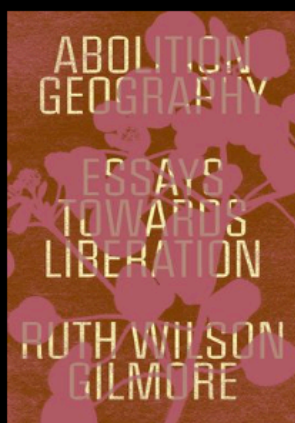
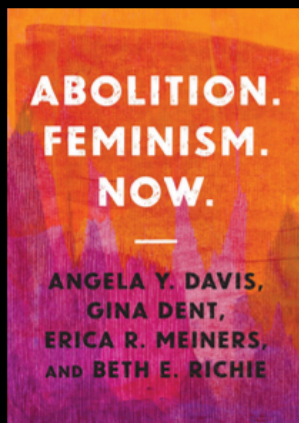
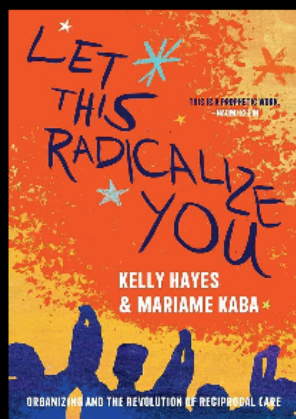
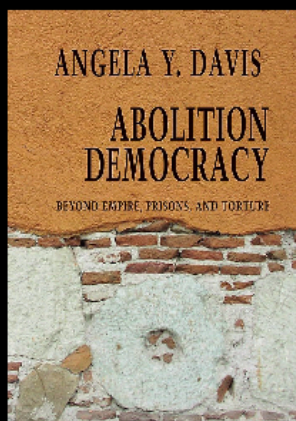
"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I'm changing the things I cannot accept."

-Angela Davis

As the movement continues..

- Asia H.

Major contemporary writers have largely shaped the abolitionist movement by challenging traditional conceptions of justice and imprisonment. Angela Davis, a noted activist and scholar, stands as a pillar of this movement, her deep insights into the intersections of race, class, and gender exposing the shortcomings of prison industrial giant Mariame Kaba, whose inspiring writing, in reimagining community-based alternatives to incarceration, more to mitigate harm -Promoting a compassionate approach, contributor Ruth Wilson Gilmore's scholarly contributions have highlighted the systemic inequities that perpetuate the prison system highlights, forcing us to confront the root causes of crime, not just punish the consequences . Together, Davis, Kaba and Gilmore have redefined the discourse on criminal justice, encouraging the public to embrace innovative solutions that prioritize treatment, equity and social change over punishment.



Mariame
Kaba



Angela
Davis



Ruth Wilson
Gilmore



There is power in numbers, but they teach:

Blacks never had a chance

Lives were stolen from them by whites

And so the world watches America

Collapse and Fall

Killed, Weeped and Burned

Blacks lives were destroyed

Under white rule, yet even now

Racial bias still stands

Now and Before

The **BlackBurns** tell a different story, they escaped with the help of the black community in Detroit. They don't teach us this history in school, that people came together to save each other right here in our own city. They don't teach us that there is.

Power in Numbers.

by mi'kah west

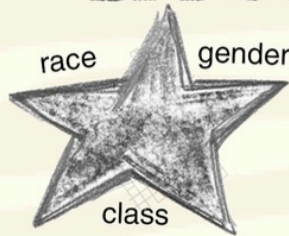


Untold stories

So often the stories of black folks are untold, there's so much history-especially in Detroit-that was right under us that we never knew existed because of deliberate attempts by those in power to oppress, silence, and erase black history and experiences. Due to this lack of sufficient education, it becomes our individual responsibility to educate ourselves on black history and culture. This shouldn't be the case - these stories not only deserve to be told, but are fundamental to understanding everything and should be more fully incorporated into curriculums.

By Ruta Hailu

INTERSECT



AND ABOLITION

what is **intersectionality**? = a state of collision
collide state

Intersectionality is a phrase coined by Black activist Kimberlé Crenshaw that describes the interconnected nature between social constructs; such as race, gender, and class. People affected by these oppressive systems provide a unique lens of the world and solutions to its problems.

why is **intersectionality** important to abolition?

Intersectionality ensures that all fights against oppression are met; it's something that is necessary for true liberation for all. By recognizing our "sameness" as the oppressed, we are able to come together and abolish hegemonic, binary ways of thinking and systems established in modern society! The calls for the end of American slavery throughout the 18th and 19th centuries were vital for the emerging suffragette movements-- especially for Black feminists like Sojourner Truth. These Black suffragettes then paved the way for future activists, such as Angela Davis, to be comfortable with advocating for abolishing the status quo: incarceration and police.

ANGELA DAVIS

FRED HAMPTON

IDA B. WELLS

SOJOURNER TRUTH

AUDRE LORDE

JAMES BALDWIN



ATIONALITY OLITION

BY: D'NYRIA [sic]

and MICAH

"Ain't I a Woman" by Sojourner Truth

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man – when I could get it – and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

across:

3. intersectional activist and author of "Women, Race & Class"
6. phrase that describes the overlapping of oppressive systems

down:

1. BLM stands for:
2. marxist black power group led by fred hampton
4. the state of being equal
5. the advocacy for women's rights

connect the dots!



1

2

3

4

5

6

answers:

CREATE YOUR OWN PAGE

a letter to black faces in white spaces

written by grace franklin



dear black child.

the feeling of not knowing whether or not you belong is nothing compared to the space you were designed to fill up. i know it's hard to keep your eyes on your goal when you aren't reflected in any of the things that surround you. but you were placed there to make that space. you were created for greatness and your purpose is greater than this box that you've been given.

the reality is that in this life there are many obstacles we have to face. the world has been suffocated by the forever tightening and constant pressure of white supremacy. it's poison has infected all parts of life. slowly draining the sense from those who it's inhabited. with this, it's important to remember that the disdain for your well being from the world you've been engulfed in does not represent your value. you are worthy of life and all that comes with it.



so black child, never dim your light. your fire shines bright despite outsiders attempts to smother it.

you are POWERFUL. you are WORTHY.
you are ENOUGH.

The life of colors in white spaces



SPACE
Janiala Young

I'M STILL LOOKING FOR A SPACE MADE FOR ME. IT'S A DREAM THAT HAS YET COME TRUE.

IT'S LIKE A BOOK THAT NEEDS WRITING.

BUT I'M STILL LEARNING HOW TO... PUT THE WORDS TOGETHER WITHOUT FEAR OF JAGGED ACCEPTANCE.

IT'S MY JOB TO WRITE THE BOOK THAT'S NEVER BEEN EXPOSED TO ME... I KNOW

BUT I WANT TO FEEL MY CREATIONS AUTHENTICITY

I WANT MY INTERSECTIONALITY TO BE PAINTED ACROSS THE PAGES

LIKE A BLACK WOMAN ON THE MARGINS OF OUR SYSTEMS, AND ABOLITION
I WANT IT TO GIVE: ANGELA DAVIS



I WANT THE BLACK GIRL WHO'S ESCAPING THE PAGES TO FEEL THEIR BLACKNESS WALK AWAY FROM

THOSE _____ SPACES
I WANT THE TERM ABOLITION TO HAVE A NEW MEANING

ONE THAT'S NOT AFRAID

TO BRING THE STANDARD TO UPWARD CURLY HAIR AND BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES

NEVER AFRAID TO RID THE SPACES PAINTED IN COLOR BY A PERSON WHO LACKS IT

TO MAKE THE ONES PAINTED IN BLACK AND BROWN BY THE _____ HAND

I WANT TO WRITE THE BOOK THAT HAS FELT THE CONFUSION THESE _____ HAVE CREATED.

I THINK I'VE BECOME ADJUSTED TO THE SPACES THAT INCLUDE ME WITHOUT EVER ASKING MY SAY

CREATING A CONFUSION THAT ASSUMES IT'S ALLOWED TO STAY

BUT I FEEL COLONIZED AND INVADED

IN MY SACRED BLACK SPACE

THE POEM MIGHT SCREAM BITTER... CONFUSED, AND EVEN CLICHE

TELL THAT TO THEMSELVES WHO YOU FEEL ABANDONED IN THESE _____ SPACE.

WHOS CURLES LEARNED TO LOOSEN TO BE ALLOWED IN THAT PROFESSIONAL SPACE.

WHOS BACKS HAVE BEEN BROKEN DURING THOSE LONG DAYS OF LABOR.

WHOS HANDS HAVE BEEN BLEED RED FURRY.

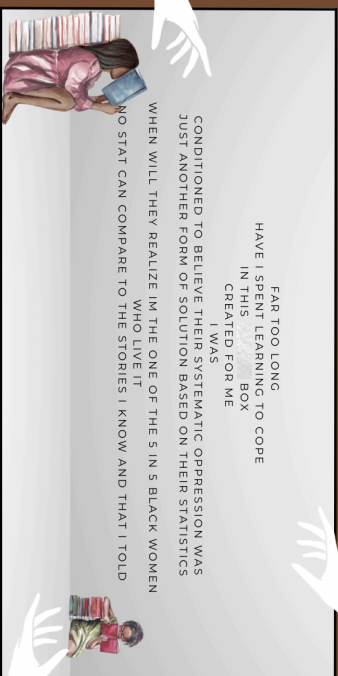
WHOS ISSUES HAVE BEEN IGNORED AND SCRIBBLED ON WITH WHITE PAINT AND CONCLUSIONS.

WHOS EYES HAVE BEEN SHADED BLUE BUT HOLD A BEAUTIFUL BROWN GAZE.

I GUESS MY COLOR HAS ALWAYS LIVED IN A WHITE _____



We must create the spaces we need to see



FAR TOO LONG
HAVE I SPENT LEARNING TO COPE
IN THIS _____ BOX
CREATED FOR ME

I WAS

CONDITIONED TO BELIEVE THEIR SYSTEMATIC OPPRESSION WAS

JUST ANOTHER FORM OF SOLUTION BASED ON THEIR STATISTICS

WHEN WILL THEY REALIZE IM THE ONE OF THE 5 IN 5 BLACK WOMEN

WHO LIVE IT

NO STAT CAN COMPARE TO THE STORIES I KNOW AND THAT I TOLD

THIS _____ SPACE HAS CONTROLLED ME.

THE GENERATIONS BEFORE ME

FOR WHAT I CONSIDER TOO LONG FOR COMFORT

I GUESS NOW I MUST PAINT THE BOX IN COLORS

FOR ALL OF MY IDENTITIES AND GENERATIONS TO SEE

NO LONGER WILL I SEEK COMFORT IN A PLACE THAT AINT FOR ME

NO LONGER WILL THIS _____ LEECH SURVIVE BY DRAINING ME...

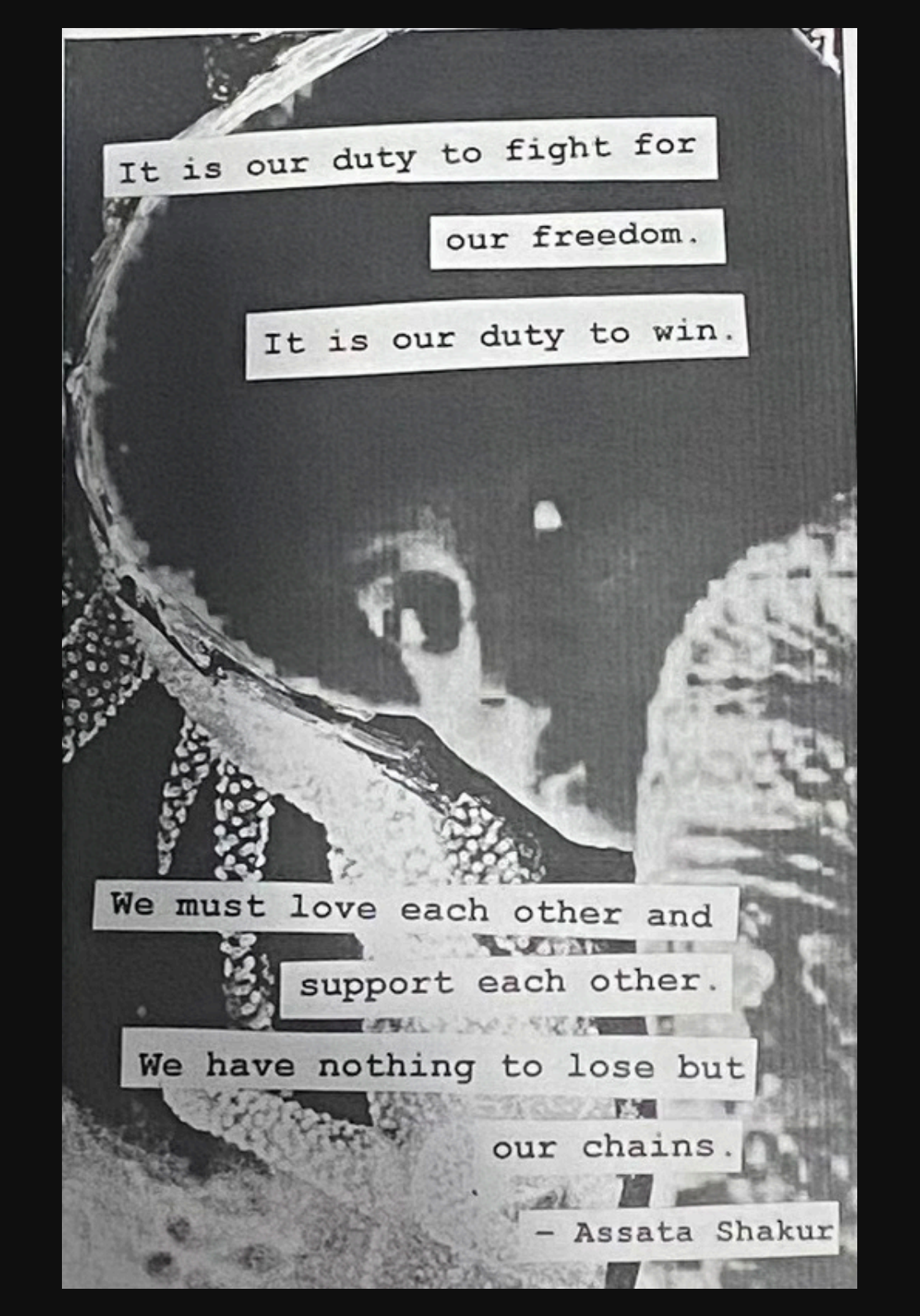


a pledge to abolition

as i come to learn the way this world works, i learn that it's not made with me in mind. i pledge to fight to dismantle the systems that actively oppress me and those who don't have the courage and resources to fight back. i promise to protect my freedoms and to protect myself from direct attacks to my humanity.

i promise to dedicated time and patience towards my goal of creating a better world for us all to live in. i promise to keep in mind that this battle is a long one, and that little victories are important too. i pledge to make sure that when the fight is over we have created a system with everyone in mind.

written by grace franklin



It is our duty to fight for

our freedom.

It is our duty to win.

We must love each other and

support each other.

We have nothing to lose but

our chains.

- Assata Shakur

THE YOUTH



Thandive Abdullah, Abolishment of Student searching in LA school district.



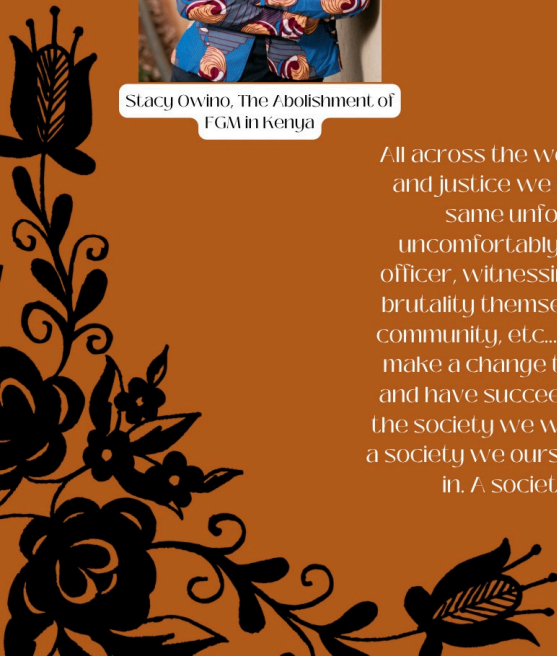
Shayla Turner, Abolishment of cops in her school



Stacy Owino, The Abolishment of FGM in Kenya

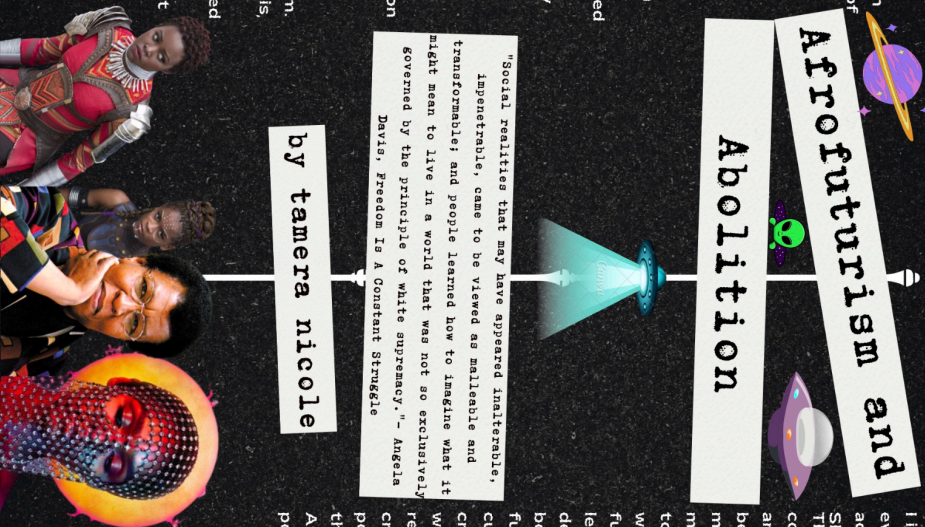
All across the world there's youth working together for the rights and justice we know we deserve. It's youth that relate from the same unfortunate experiences. Experiences like being uncomfortably searched or assaulted by their school resource officer, witnessing a loved one face police brutality or facing police brutality themselves, facing unfair practices due to sexism in their community, etc...The youth took these disadvantages and united to make a change to our broken society. As seen above youth united and have succeeded at abolishment. As the youth we need to build the society we would want to raise our children in. We need to build a society we ourself, our peers, and our family members will feel safe in. A society where we will no longer feel like a burden.

Shayla J.



Afrofuturism can be defined differently depending on who you ask. My favorite definition would be: "Afrofuturism imagines a future void of white supremacist thought and the structures that violently oppressed Black communities. Afrofuturism evaluates the past and future to create better conditions for the present generation of Black people through the use of technology, often presented through art, music, and literature." - (Taylor Crumpton, via Architectural Digest.) My love for science fiction started from watching *The Twilight Zone*. I was intrigued and excited by the way sci-fi encouraged such bold imagination and multiple possibilities. (Plus it's strange and often creepy, which I enjoy as a horror fan.) I'm also moved by the genre's ability to be thought provoking and display such strong, timeless messages about social issues while showcasing cultural fears.

I feel that this paved the way for my introduction to and eventual love of Afrofuturism. Afrofuturism is incredibly creative and deeply emotional due to its reimagining of our society through various art forms, film being one of them. Black Panther (2018) is a perfect example of this, since the main characters live in a country that has not been colonized and utilize highly advanced technology, the kind of technology I think we *should* have access to at this point in time, but we don't, not only due to colonization but capitalism as well. I think in a world untouched by these things, meaningful and productive technological advancement would be prioritized rather than a relentless pursuit of profit and power.



I imagine how differently our world would look like if every Black person from a young age was given access to the STEM education and technology that Shuri had.

There are many other ways in which Afrofuturism constantly inspires me to reimagine our society. As an abolitionist, I don't think oppressive systems can be reformed, they can only be dismantled; but we must be careful not to rebuild them, instead we must use our imagination and knowledge of history to build something entirely new. For me, I dream and work towards a future without prisons and police. A future where there isn't an even an option for legislators and an unnecessary, archaic court to make decisions on behalf of what a woman does with her body, or how queer people express themselves. A future where education no longer exists as it does currently; a repressive institution meant to dull critical thinking and crush the spirit of the youth--it would be the opposite. In fact, Afrofuturism is a reclamation and celebration of our identities while creating a link from the past to the future. It's a powerful, thoughtful, imaginative, form of resistance that continues to empower generations of the African Diaspora to believe a better world is possible--myself included.

Afrofuturism Recs:

- Mothership Connection (1975), Parliament Kindred (1979)/Lilith's Brood (1987-1989), Octavia Butler
- The Archandroid (2010)/Dirty Computer (2018), Janelle Monáe
- Black Panther (2018)
- Black is King (2020)
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022)

Vouge

Femme is

the

expression

of oneself

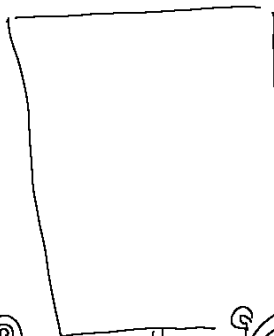
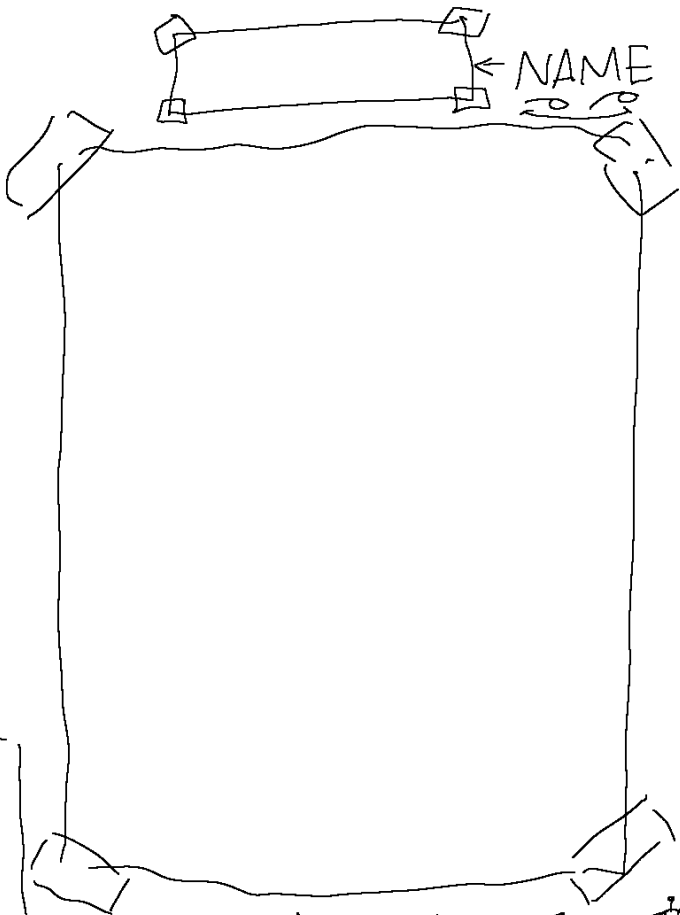
through

dance,

music, and

fashion.

NAME

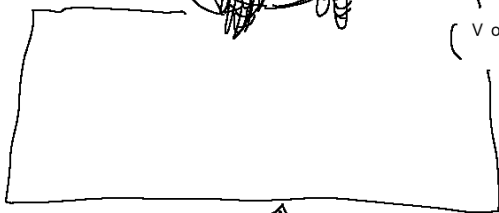


©

Doodle



How do you express yourself?

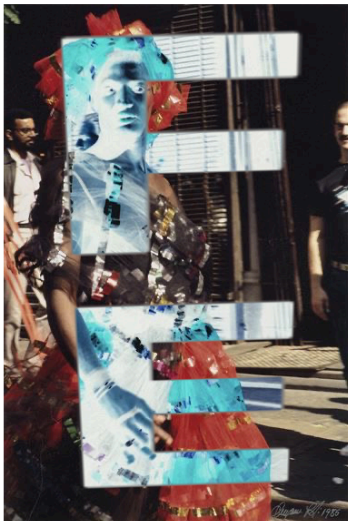


Draw

(Vouge is the jazz of dance)



LARRY



The Ball-Room has acted as a safe space for queer people of color since the 1960's!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

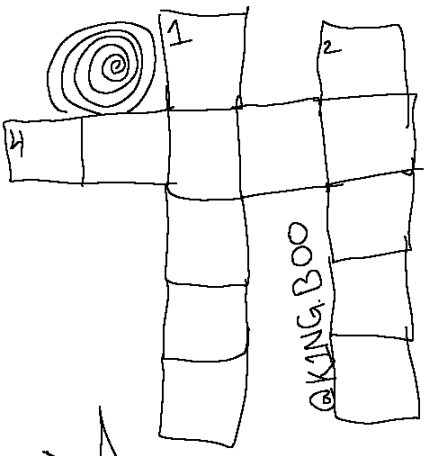
DOWN



1) A word to describe one as jaw-dropping and used for Affirmation.

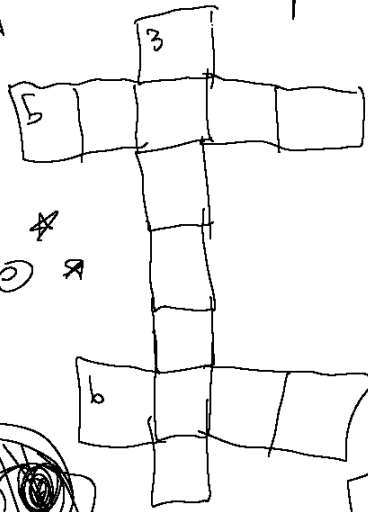
2) The term of an individual who is Homosexual, trans, or an ally or such.

3) A classification of Memory & tradition.



4) The topic of this book!

5) The place where dancers perform



6) the dramatic Makeup & fashion style which typically includes

cross dressing



sloppy writing yay

Abolition Playlist



SOUNDS OF FREEDOM



SCAN ME

THANK YOU!

HUMANITIES WITHOUT WALLS
(FUNDER)

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
DAYUM

DETROIT HEALS DETROIT
SOURCE BOOKSELLERS

BLOCK ART GALLERY

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TOURS

MEGHAN MCGOWAN

JUANA WILLIAMS

CHARLES WRIGHT MUSEUM

SWORDS INTO PLOW SHARES 313