Lewis Elliot White (he/they)

Graphic Design Portfolio

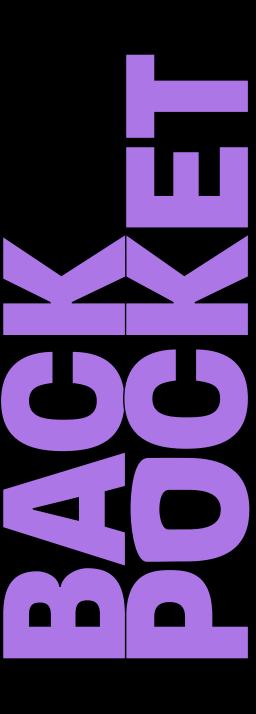
September 2023

lewiselliotwhite.com

BACKPOCKET (2022—Ongoing)

Informational, queer, and risqué.

BACKPOCKET is a self-published, quarterly, queer literary publication focused on highlighting queer history, voices, and perspectives.

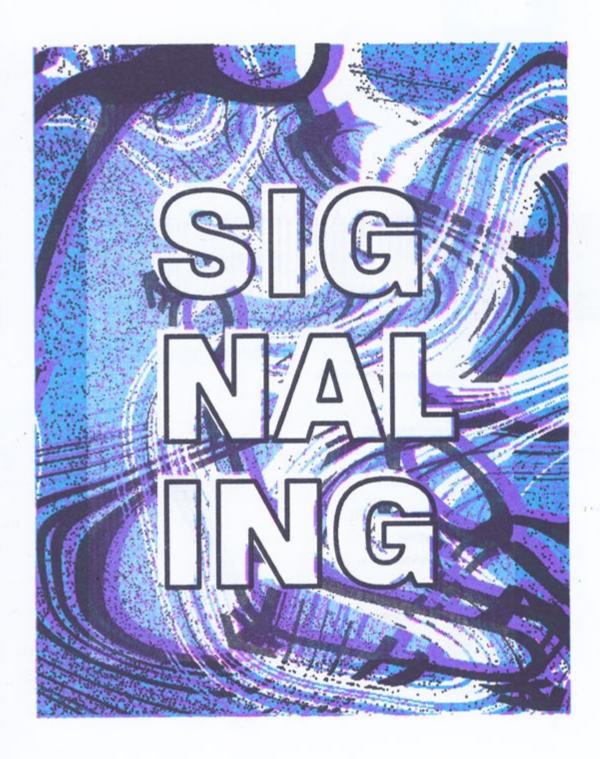


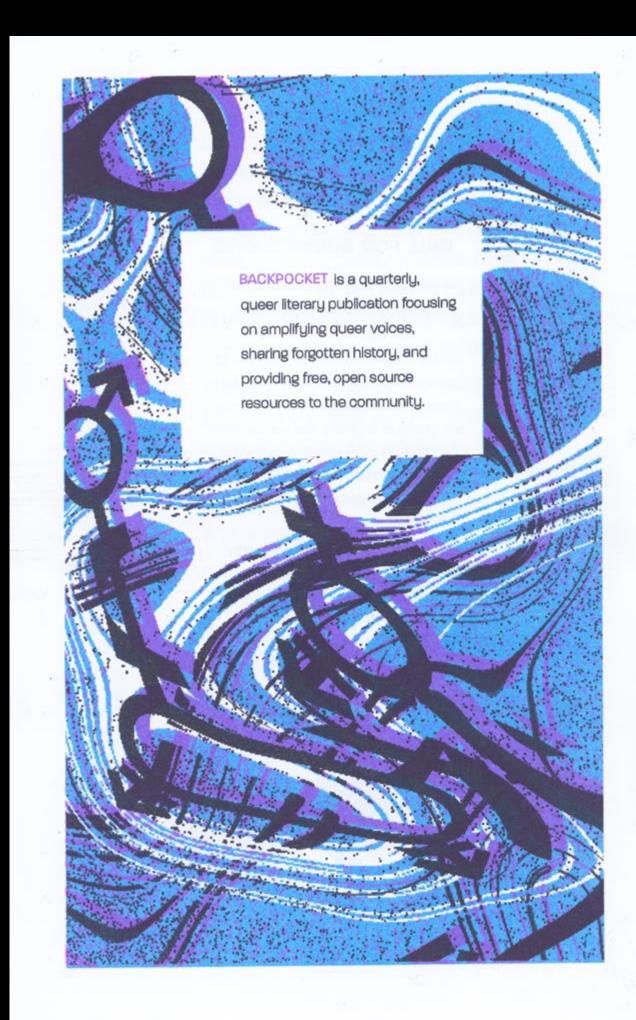




A QUEER LITERARY
PUBLICATION

ISSUE #1







8 SIGNALING: The Semiotics

BACKPOCKET is a quarterly, queer literary publication focusing on amplifying queer voices, sharing forgotten history, and providing free, open source resources to the community. BACKPOCKET came about by acknowledging the importance of queer history and the lack of resources telling these histories from a

queer perspective. The terminology and language used in today's society to describe gueer individuals has not always existed and the terms that have historically been used often have complex narratives as their connotations continue to change over time. Furthermore, the language

queer individuals have used to describe their identities is not always consistent with the language the rest of society has chosen to use. As a result, queer voices, perspectives, and experiences have historically gone untold, been misrepresented, or diabolized.

BACKPOCKET is an attempt to bring these narratives to light in a raw, authentic, and unapologetic manner and is committed to making this information free and accessible.

Gasu A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same pender. Men, women and non-binary people may use this term to describe themselves -The Human Rights Compaign

Gender Binary A system in which gender is constructed into two strict categories of male or female. Gender identity is expected to align with the sex assigned at birth and gender expressions and The Human Rights Compolign

ender Expression External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body characteristics or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either mesculine or feminine. -The Human Rights Campaign

lanky Code a visual, in-group code used primarily by queer men that was popular in the 1970s. LGBTO Language Project

evender Languages (Anti-)languages, cents, and slang created and used by LGBT+ communities. Throughout history, people ve used a myried of secret signs and symbols to identify detection (and thus danger), but perhaps none are so intricete as

Lesbian A women who is emotionelly, romanticelly or sexually attracted to other women. Women and non-binery people may use this term to describe themselves. -The Human Rights Compaign

LOSTOLA+ is an acronum for Lesbien, Gau, Bisexual, Transpender (or Trans), Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromentic. LGBTO Language Project

perceived by others as a particular identity or gender, regardless of how the individual in question identifies (e.g., passing as straight, passing as a disgender woman, passing as white, etc.).

Semiotics The theory or study of signs - Engyclopasida Britannica

Signalling the application of semiotic theory to areas including, but not limited to, dress, speech, symbols, and behaviors (the signifier) to express aspects of one's identity (the signified).

spectrum of identities and orientations that are counter to the mainstream. Quee is often used as a catch-all to include many people, including those who do not identify as exclusively straight and/or folks who have non-binary or gender-expansive identities. This term was proviously used as a siur, but has been recisimed by many parts of the LGRTO movement. -The Human Rights Compolan

Queer Coding The use of ideological and/ or behavioral cues in media to indicate a character's queer identity without stating it outright. - LGBTO Language Project





#Letrators by Jordan Comercia Onstagram @lordan.olthingsart)

SIGNALING:

The Semiotics of Queer Expression

The first time I was exposed to the concept of signaling was when I was a young child, though I did not know it what he said as fact and suggested he as signaling at the time. It was the mid got his other ear plarced as well so that how he used to have his ear pierced, wouldn't mistake him as gay. While this but later took it out because "heving" ear pieroing code is not as commonone ear plerced means you are gay". As place today, nor does a man having one a child, I did not understand how a man — ear pierced actually meen he must be having his ear pierced equivocates that gau, I began to see more and more

he must be gay, if anything, I thought it was pretty punk rook for a man to have his ears pierced, Regardless, I accepted he could still wear earrings and people

Signating, coding, flagging, or whatever you want to call it, has long been a way for members of the queer commu nity to communicating their identities with one another. So What is Signaling?

examples of signaling being embraced

discovered my own queer identity.

y queer individuals as I got older and

4 Mission Statement

of Queer Expression

15 Polari Translations

18 Acknowledgments

16 References

6 Definitions

are a member of the queer community. Signaling is the application of semiotic in an essay on gay symbols in the Detheory to areas including, but not limited oember 1985 issue of Soppho Species. to, dress, speech, symbols, and behav- a "Lesbian and Gay Quarterly Journal". iors (the signifier) to express aspects of one's identity (the signified). In his book, This Means This, This Means That A Liser's Guide to Semiot-

signs have two main components, the

signifier, or what carries the message.

and the signified, or what was commu

ins Sean Hall defines semiotics as "the theory of signs", adding that the word comes from the Greek word semelcommunication. The use of eau sum otikos, which means an interpreter of signs" (S). Though the term was first defined "as the study of the life of signs. needed initial contact with other gay within society" by the Swiss linguist people within a hostile society. We Ferdinand de Saussure (Semiotics). Saussure made the distinction that aware of any signals or suggestion

niceted by that message (Hall 21). In concept within his own circle of the gay the context of the earling example, the community in San Francisco. One of the right eer being pieroed (but not the left) examples Fischer highlights through his would be the signifier and the signified photography and the accompanying would be that the weerer is gay, essay is the handkerchief code.

utilized this theory, whether they knew

it or not, to subtly signal their queemess

By employing semiotics, queer individu

als are able to nevigate a hetero-norma-

tive world without explicitly saying they

6



The hanky code", as it is also referred to as, is a "sartorial code" commonly used by gueer men in the 1970s-80's to signal one's sexual desires to other men. What makes the hanky code stand out from other methods of signaling is that it "was the first sertorial code to simultaneously communicate queer identity, sexual availability, and sexual fetishes' (Cornier).

chief in the back pocket. The placement of the handkerchief in the left or right pocket signals If one dealres to play ne "eggressive" or dominant role (left) or the "passive" role (right) in sexual ntercourse. Additionally, the color of the handkerchief signifies the specific sexual activity one is interested in perticipat- that the weerer must be queer. As ing in (Fischer 20, it is important to note Hell writes, "Many of the signs we use that the hanku code is not exclusive to to communicate are arbitrary in the queer men, individuals of any gender sense that they are not immediately or sexual orientation can participate in transperent to us" (26). Yet, this is what the hanky code.

The hanky code is not used as frequently as it used to be since it has gained popularity in popular outure and some do still participate in it. Fischer While feehion accessories are one way draws attention to other examples of to signal identity, language can also be signaling such as the earing and having utilized to subtly communicate queerkeys henging from one's belt loop. ness, "Levender languages", as the

The senting as a signifier is quite ambig- LGST+ Cultural Heritage project defines

uous and not as commonly utilized. The keys however, are still a popular signifier among leablans today. Of course, these fashion accessories could be just that, accessories, and do not always mean

"[The Hankie Code] was the first sartorial code to simultaneously communicate queer availability, and sexual fetishes.

successful. A certain degree of secrecy.

(anti-)iengueges, cents and sleng by LGBT+ comm themselves to their community while avoiding detection" and like the examples of signaling stated

previously, *as is lost" (Levender Languages).

Polari is an example of such a language. Since homosexusity was illegal in the United Kingdom until the Sexual Offenses Act was passed in 1967, quee Individuals used slang, known as Polari to determine if another individual was queer. Many slang words used by the

thrown in to communicate certain and is used among the LGBT+ comideas. If a queer individual spoke Polari to another and they responded at a higher risk of being discriminated, with confusion, this would signal that harassed, or arrested.

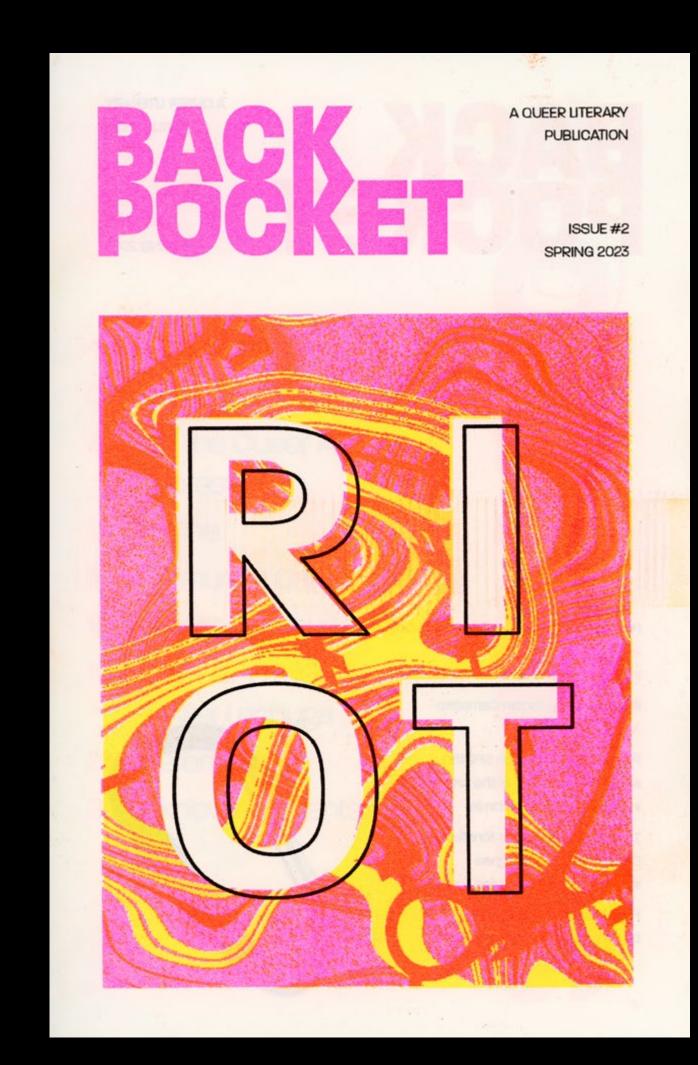


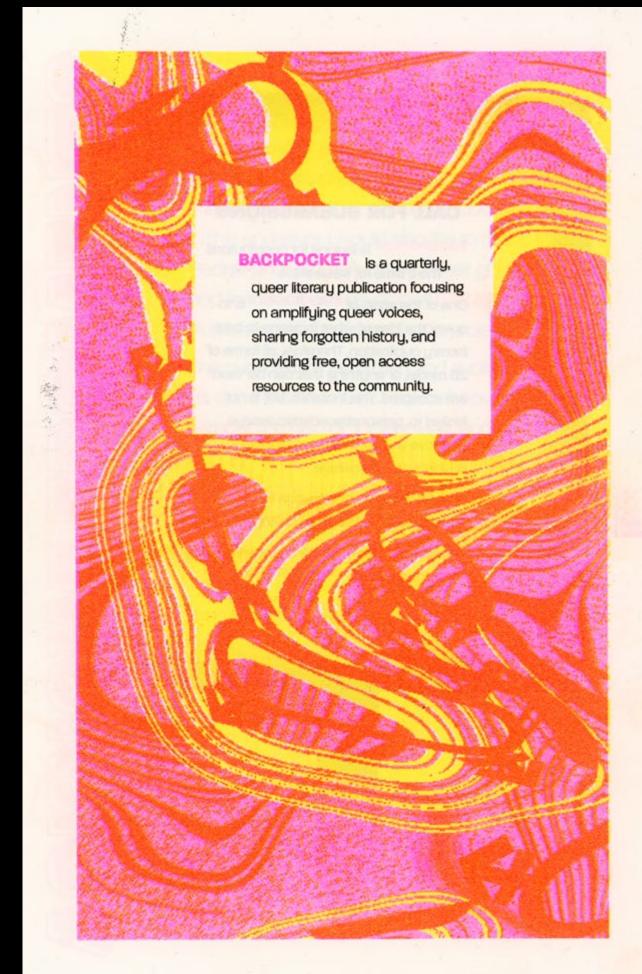
many examples of lavender languages across different cultures. queer community today actually derive language used by the queer community

munity and sex workers, as they are













BACKPOCKET is a quarterly, queer literary publication focusing on amplifying queer voices, sharing forgotten history, and providing free, open source resources to the community.

BACKPOCKET came about by acknowledging the importance of queer history and the lack of resources telling these histories from a queer

The terminology and language used in today's society to describe queer individuals has not always existed, and the terms that have historically been used often have complex narratives as their connotations continue to change over time. Furthermore, the language queer individuals have used to describe their identities has not always been consistent with the language the rest of society has chosen to use. As a result, queer voices, perspectives, and experiences have historically gone untold, been misrepresented, or diabolized.

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RIOT:

in New York City, in the early morning

began raiding Stonewall Inn. Thirteen

ued to linger outside. The story varies

people were amented, others kicked out.

ESSAY BY LEWIS ELLIOT WHITE If you have ever been to a pride parade, of June 28th, 1969, police entered and

The Queer Art of Protest

there is a chance you have seen someone holding up a sign that reads "THE FIRST PRIDE WAS A RIOT". These words Rather than leaving, as was customery. are a specific reference to the Stonewall when a raid occurred, people continriots, a highly celebrated moment in queer history. The Stonewall Inn, now a depending on who tells it, but one mo-National Historic Landmark, is a gay ber ment there was not a riot, and the next of rioters blocked the street, stopping traffic. More police officers eventually arrived, and three hours after the raid started, the riot concluded (Armstrong & Crage, 737). Riots hold a special place in the collective memory of the queer number of pivotal historical moments in the fight for queer liberation, Stonewall

being just one example.

"Riots hold a special place in the collective memory of

the queer community." This issue of BACKPOCKET asks you to consider, what is a riot, and what does it actually mean to riot? Queer identi-

ties and relationships have long been subject to discriminatory laws, resulting in criminalization, persecution, and unjust punishment. The severity of these substantially over the course of history As previously mentioned, the word has

and glass bottles were flying. The police has made notable progress towards themselves inside the bar", and in doing as well. This progress could not have so tracped themselves inside. Hundreds been made without fighting back, rioting. against injustice.

The Oxford English Dictionary poses number of definitions for the word "A violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd." The common usage has changed over time, but this is likely the when they hear the word. An example of the word not being used in a sentence in this context would be, "A riot began outside the San Francisco City

> Who is actually disturbing the peace? the rioters, yet in the context of queer history, many of these riots began because of police aggression and dis-"disturbing the peace"? LGBTO+ people are not creating hostile environments. they are standing up to them. Rioting is

of Dan White, Harvey Mik's murderer."

important question.

However, this definition poses another

and bu region, in the last century, the other usages and meanings. According LGBTO+ community in the United States to the Oxford English Dictionary, when

> commencement were like, "oh hey, do you guys want to make your ow

thinking, "oh i should make an outfit.

where I'm like a skeleton, and I'm like a

was like, "yeah, that's so sick." So, I was

San Francisco After Dan White received a lenient Gene Compton's Cafeteria was an all-night restaurant that was a "popular sentence of 7 years and 8 months for queer gathering space" in the Tenderloin. It's said that a transgender women was Beorge Moscone, a peaceful protest fed up with the police harassment, so began on Castro Street. What started she threw a cup of coffee in an officer's as 500 demonstrators turned into an face. This triggered a riot, and marked "hold the crowd back", but escalated th resistance to police violence. situation. The crowd fought back, even setting police cars on fire. New York City The Cooper Do-nuts Riot is considered the first in LGBTQ+ history in the United them all, the Stonewall riots began foloers arrested 2 drag queens, 2 male sex a gray bar in Greenwich Village. Police workers, and a gay man. The riot began began kicking patrons out of the bar and making arrests. Angry, people linafter the arrested protested the lack of room in the police car, and "onlookers gered on the street, and neighborhood began throwing assorted coffee, doresidents joined as well. Soon, a full riot nuts, cups, and trash at the police." erupted, and pennies, bottles, rocks, and other objects were flying.





in Greenwich Village, a neighborhood moment pennies, bricks,

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:

Mateo Sof Allier Lechuga

IN CONVERSATION WITH LEWIS ELLIOF WHITE

living in SF. They like making queer, cute, and obstract art. They erly practice enimation, but are also passionate about

Follow them on instagram @rstosaurioslocos

Visit their website @ mateosof.wissite.com/website

do, but y'know, I like the idea of it. LEW: Would you like to introduce W:Would you like to talk more about

the outfit you made for commencethey/them pronouns. I'm an animation major (at OCA). I like other stuff, but animation is like my main thing. that was approached for that project, but basically the people organizing

moortant people know about you? MSAL: I guess that I really like mayo, like non-ironically. I put mayo in a lot of food. just think it's a nice condiment, and I like to make my own mayo. That way I can put extra spices in it, and it's even

better than store-bought mayo. LEW: I feel like that's a controver

commetee. They don't like it. They still eat it though: LEW: So what other mediums do

MSAL: It is a little—it's really

you work in? MSAL: Apart from animation, I really like jewelry. Honestly, I think that if I had known about the OCA career, I probably would think it would've been really cool to do half animation, half jeweiry, or something like that. And I like textiles a lot-enough that I was like, "oh yee, ril make a full outfit for commencement," I've always

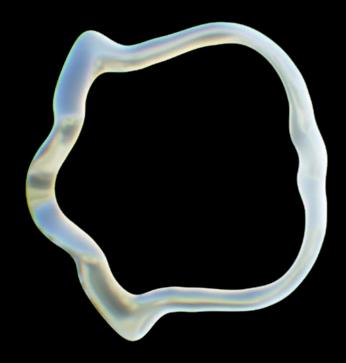
kinds been into the idea of making my own outfits; which I don't really

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Future Resonance (2023)

Experimental, musical, and unconventional.

This collaborative project is the exhibition catalog for Studio Forward's show at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, which is focused on speculative design and the future of music. The layout of this publication uses a "musical grid", where the negative space dances across the spreads. The running headers move in the shape of a Lissajous curve.





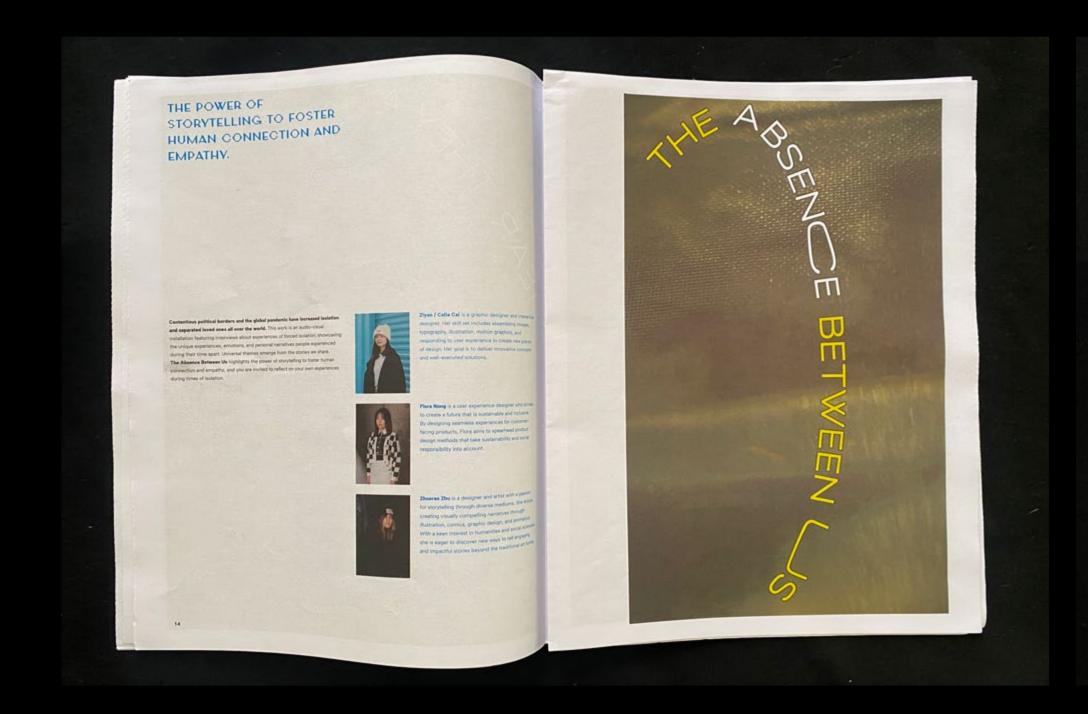




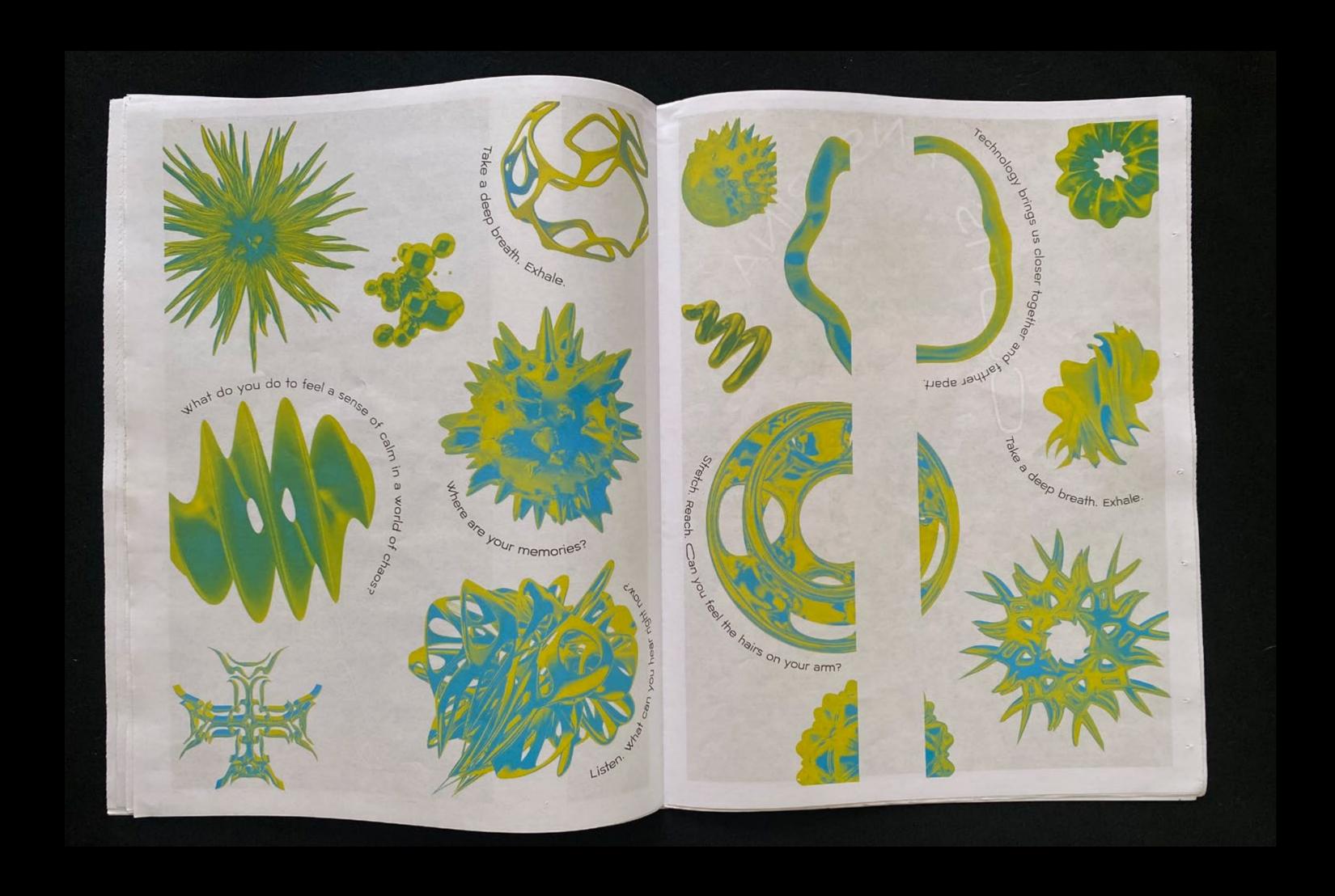














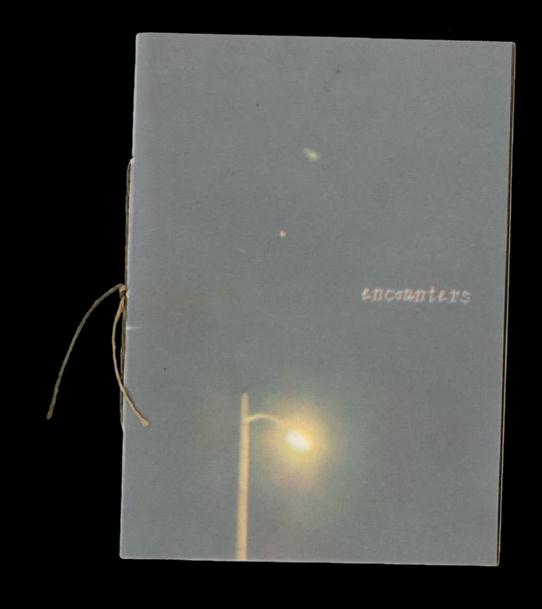


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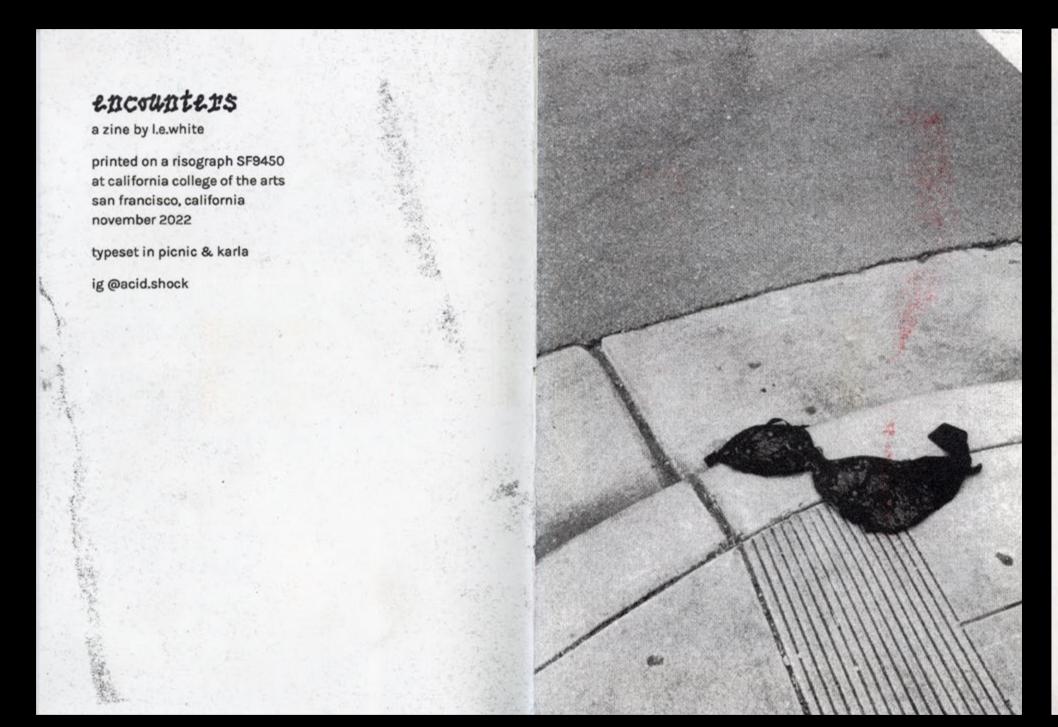
Encounters (2022)

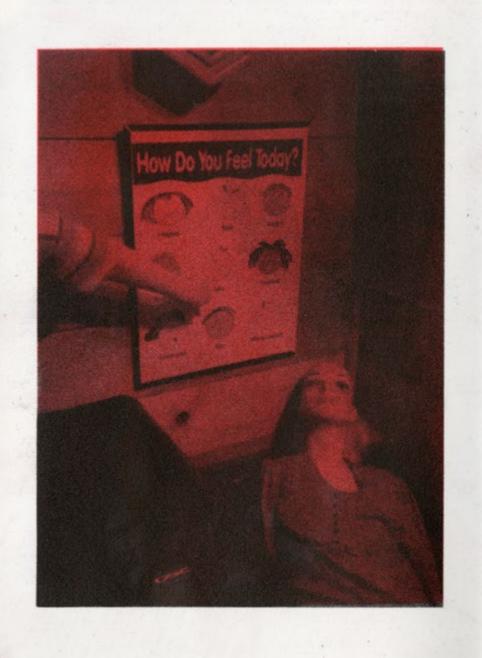
Strange, documentary, and offbeat.

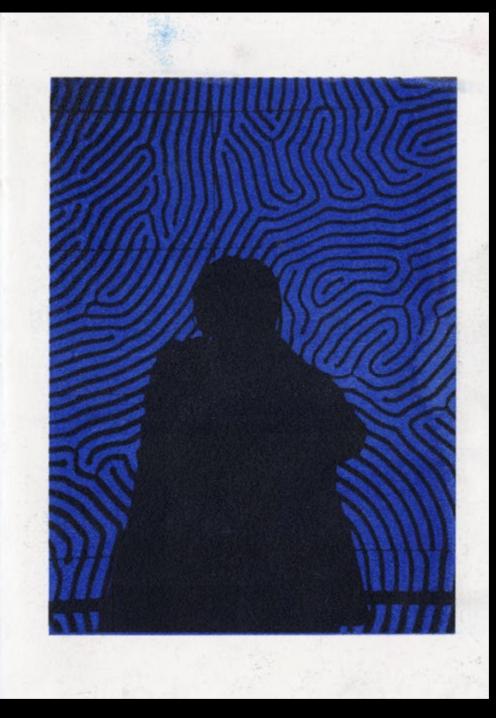
This zine is a collection of photographs of strange encounters from everyday life. The zine was printed using a risograph, so each copy is a slightly different experience. Ink smudges, fingerprints, and roller marks were sealed onto the surface with a matte finish, further embracing the notion of encounters and fleeting moments.

















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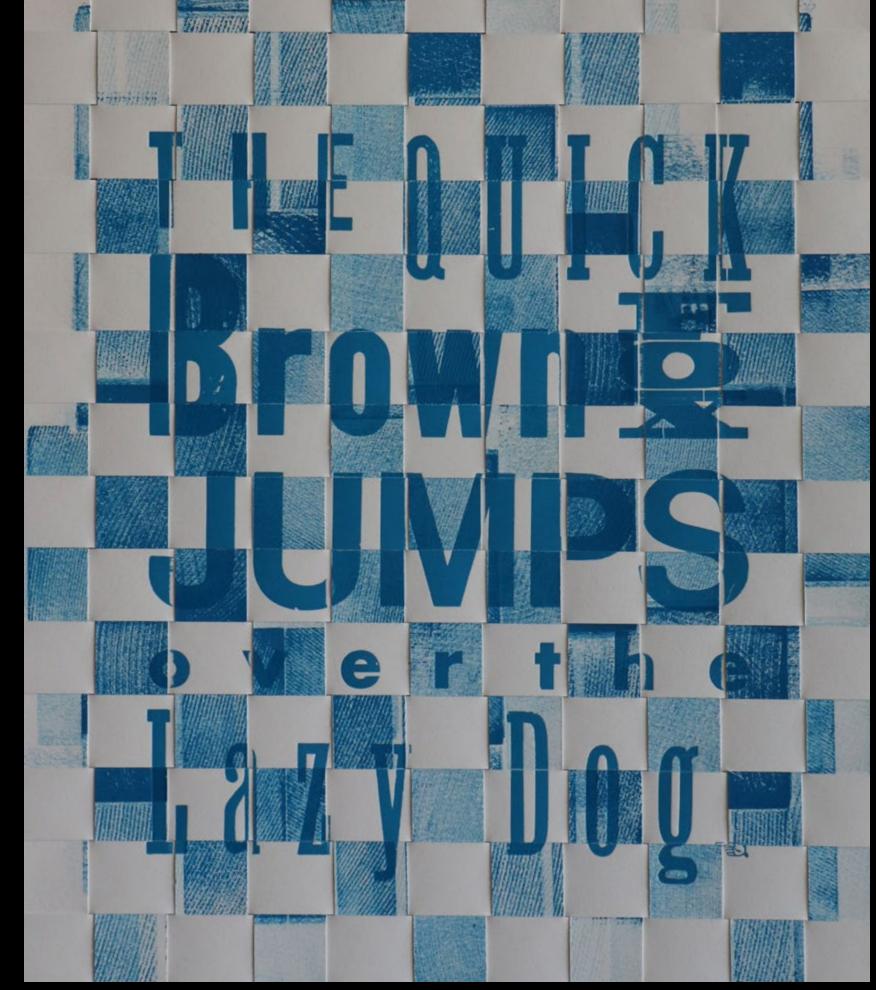
Typographic Poster (2022)

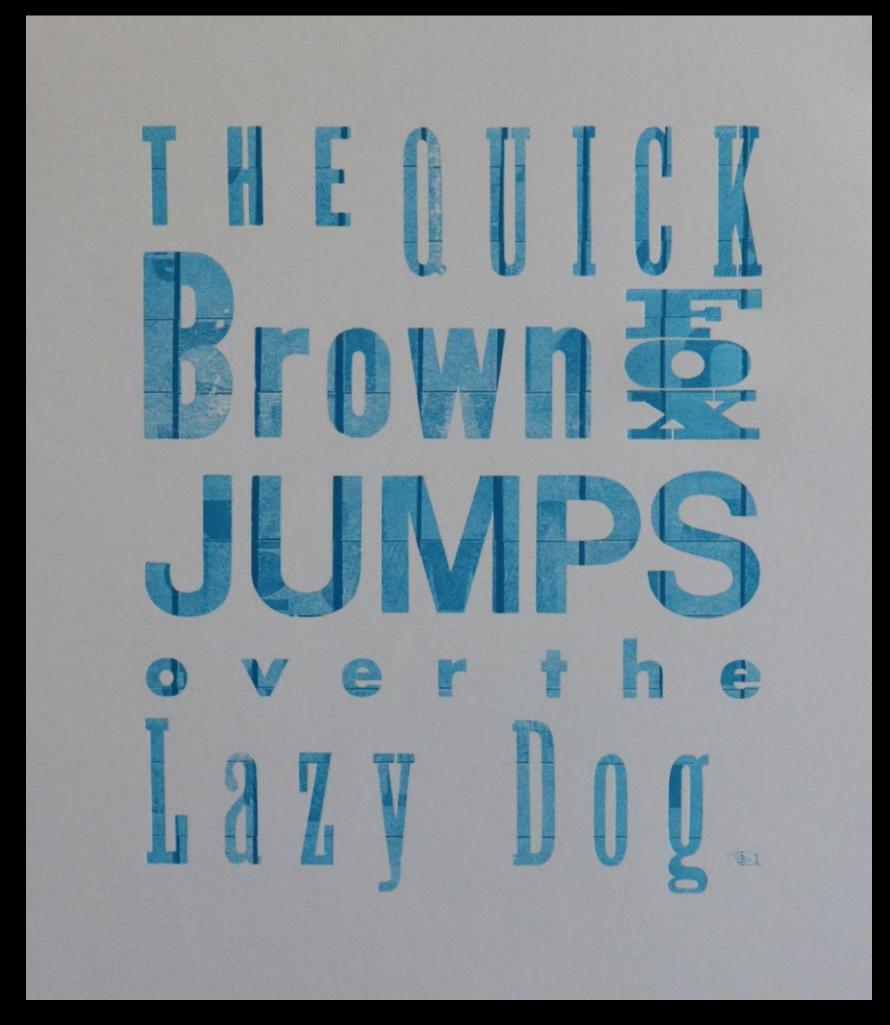
Experimental, witty, and analog.

This **Typographic Poster** is a reference to the commonly used pangram, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." A number of printing techniques were used, resulting in multiple variations of the poster.











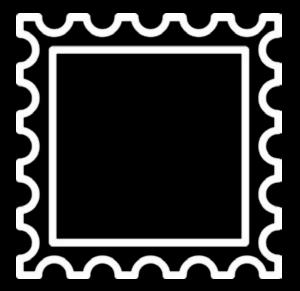
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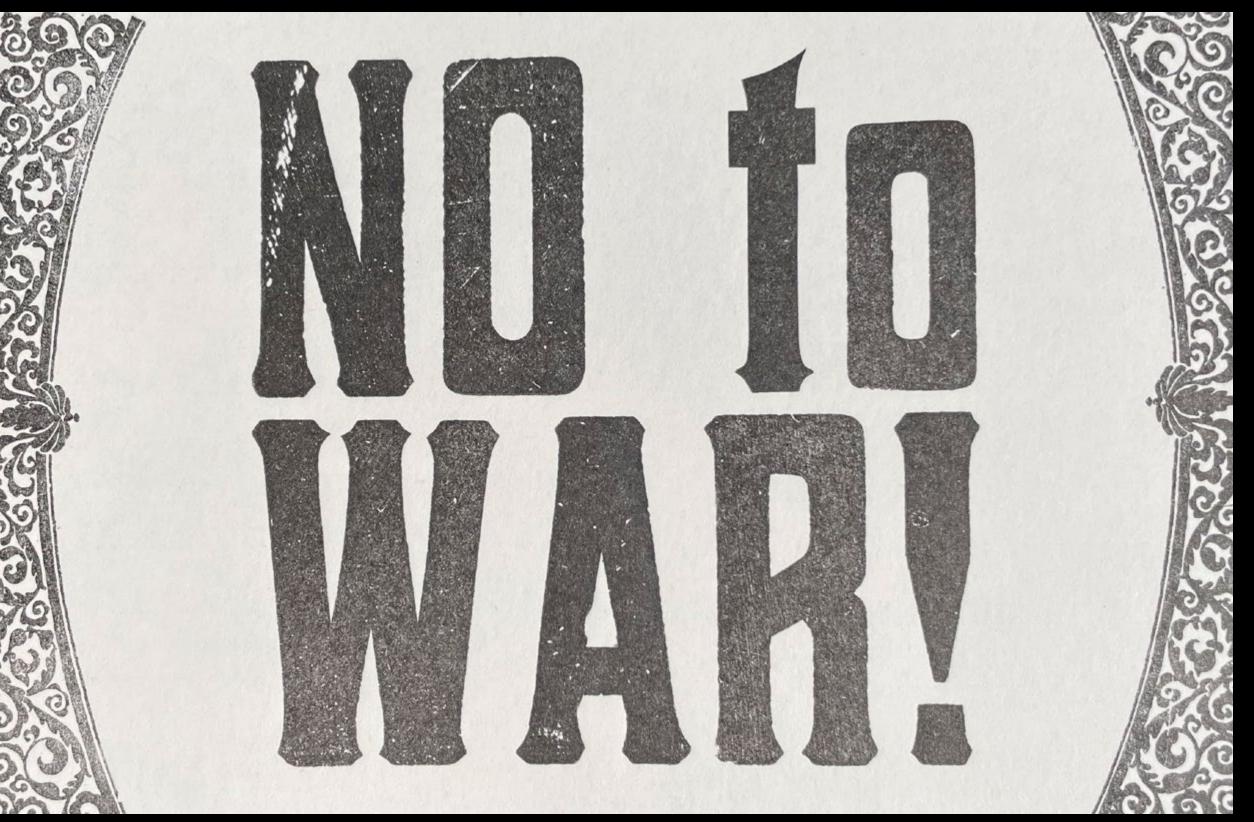
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NOTOWAR. (2022)

Urgent, simple, and timely.

The postcard is a unique form of messaging that lends well to protest art. Not only are they seen by the recipient, but the postal service workers along the way. This postcard, made in response to the war in Ukraine, adds to a long dialogue of anti-war efforts that utilize this phrase.





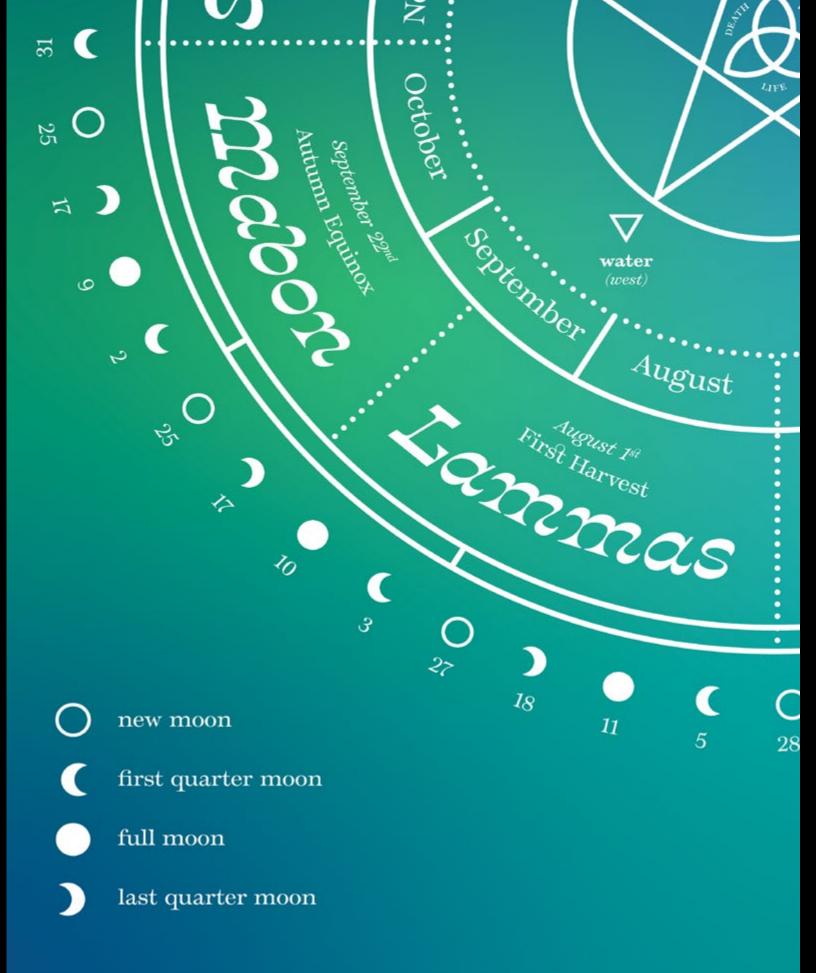


Wheel of the Year (2021)

Functional, witchy, and eclectic.

The **Wheel of the Year** is a calendar used by many pagans and practitioners of earth based religions. This poster marks the eight sabbats, while also functioning as a moon calendar.





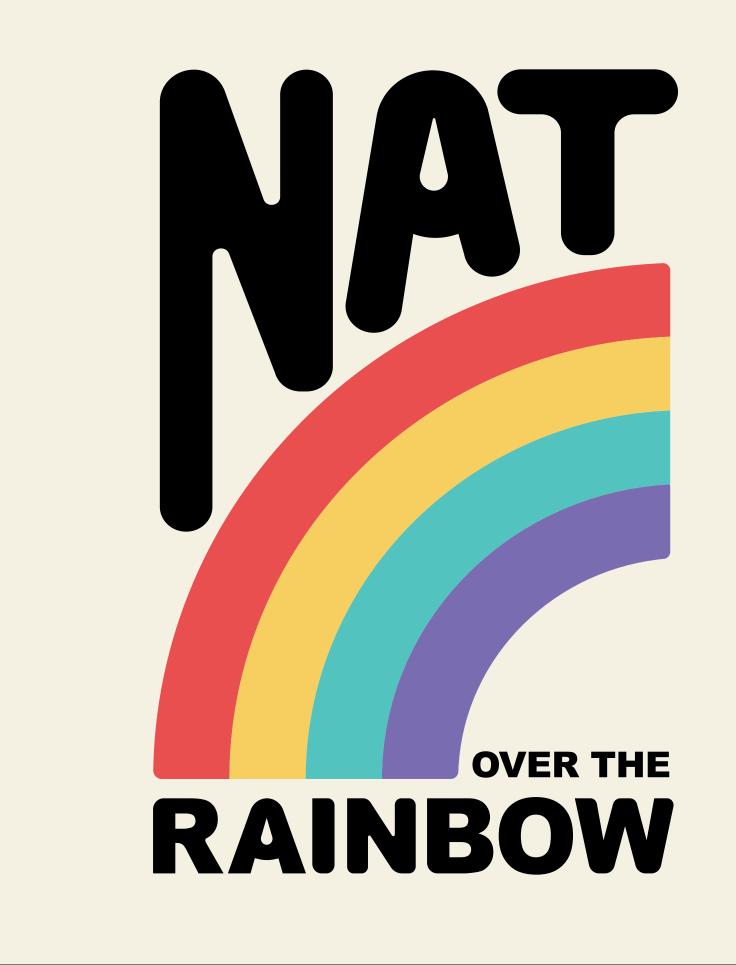
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Nat Over the Rainbow (2021)

Playful, friendly, and expressive.

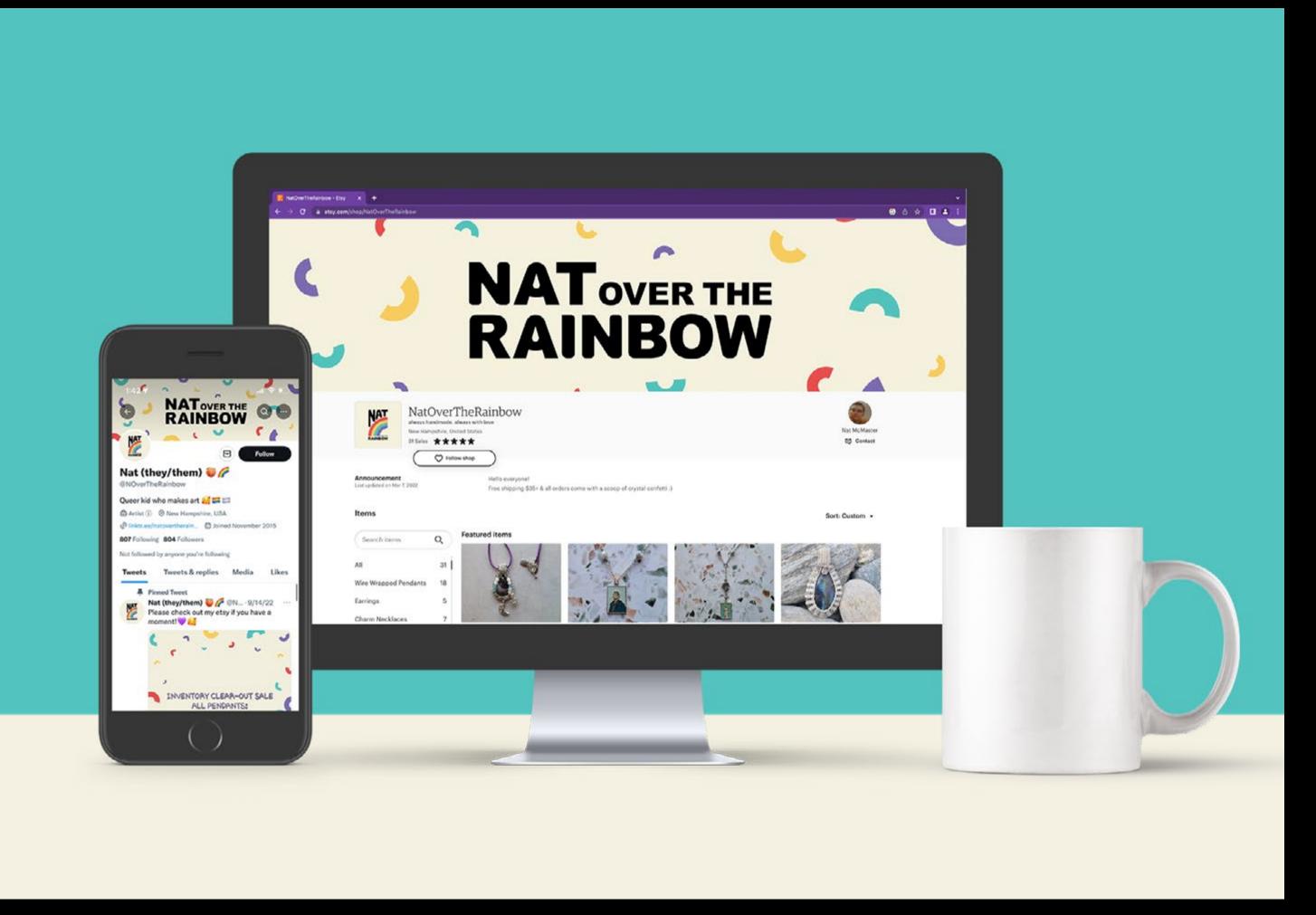
Nat Over the Rainbow is the brand identity for an independently run boutique specializing in wire wrapped crystal jewelry and other craft goods.









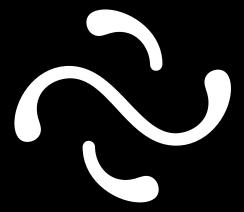


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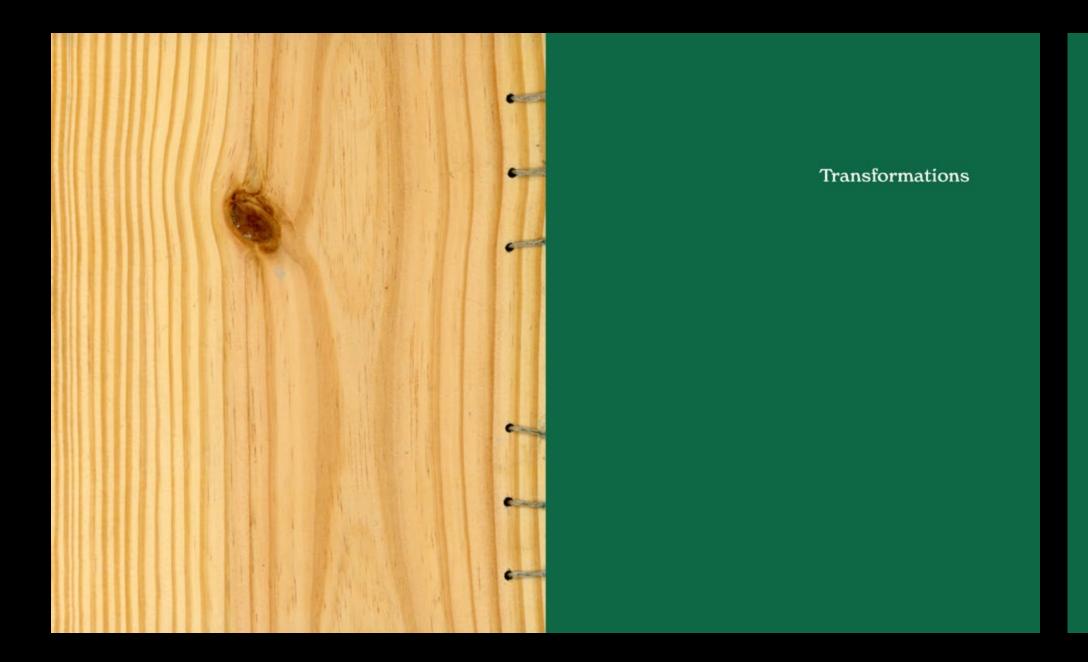
Transformations (2021)

Introspective, classical, and tranquil.

Transformations includes a collection of meditative writings on nature and time from various New England based authors. The photographs, which are my own, showcase the transition from winter to spring in the town forest of my hometown. The outer covers of the book are pine wood, a tree that appears abundantly in the New England landscape.



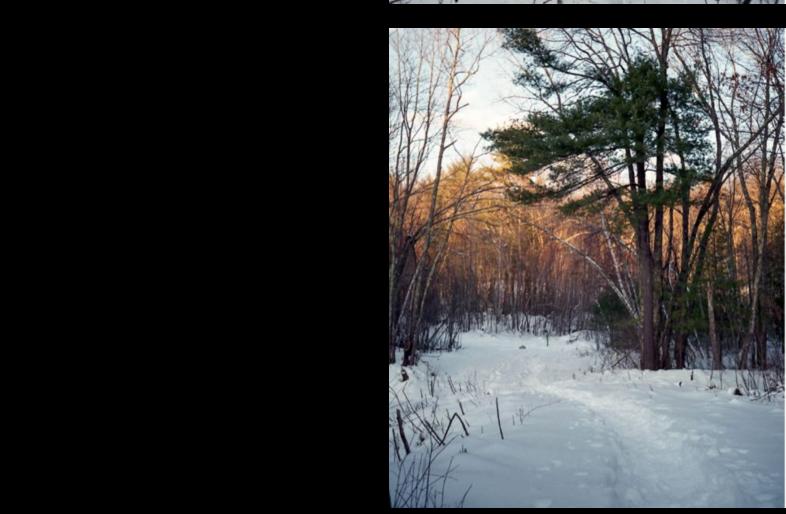




Transformations:

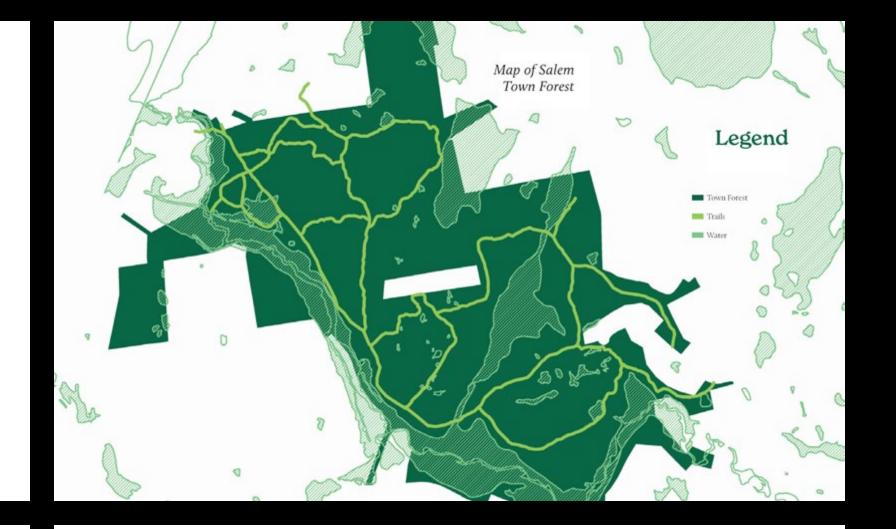
A Selection of Writings Regarding the Transformative Acts of Nature

Writings Selected & Edited by Lui White



Contents

- viii Map of the Salem Town Forest
- xi Foreword: A Blessing of the Trails
- xvii Poem from Songs for All Seasons: "Time"
- 1 Introduction: A History of the Land and its Uses
- 11 Poem from Songs for All Seasons: "The Sum Of Life" 13 An Excerpt from Walden: "Solitude"



Foreword

A Blessing of the Trails

The Church of the Woods

Loving, Living God, we gather in your name, giving thanks for this place and each other, to ask your blessing upon these trails and upon all those who seek them.

it is walked. A trail is one way of knowing,

"A trail is a cocreative What is a trail? A trail is where we walk, made by taking one step act between a place at a time. A trail is a way in the wilderness. A trail is a co-creative and a traveler... A trail act between a place and a traveler. A trail is a witness to those transforms itself and the traveler each time it is walked. A trail transforms itself and the traveler each time it is walked. A trail the traveler each time is one way of knowing, changing every day.

changing every day." the visible human trails here were leftover tracks of skidders and logging trucks, where people had chosen a way based on efficiency and utility, not pausing to enter into conversation with the land more deeply than to ask how we could take what we wanted. Now, not only humans but deer, bear, fox, moose,

Songs for All Seasons

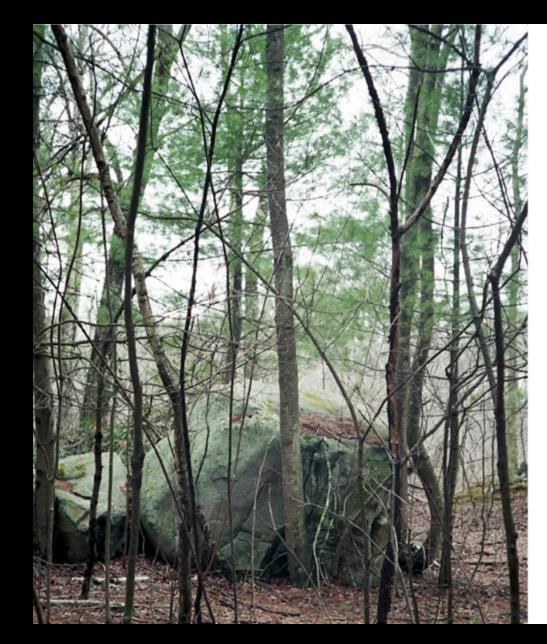
The Sum Of Life

By Cora C. Bass

Day by day the weeks go by, Month by month the swift years fly, Hour by hour we work, we live, Love and labor, gain and give.

Taking blessings as they come, In the total find life's sum; Bind as in a volume vast, Read the future by the past.

Only reaching heights sublime, Wealth to which a soul succeeds Is to what the present leads.



An Excerpt from "Walden"

Solitude

By Henry David Thoreau

"I go and come This is a delicious evening, when the whole body is one sense, with a strange and imbibes delight through every pore. I go and come with a liberty in Nature, strange liberty in Nature, a part of herself. As I walk along the a part of herself." stony shore of the pond in my shirt sleeves, though it is cool as well as cloudy and windy, and I see nothing special to attract me, all the elements are unusually congenial to me. The bullfrogs trump to usher in the night, and the note of the whippoorwill is borne on the rippling wind from over the water, Sympathy with the fluttering alder and poplar leaves almost takes away my breath; yet, like the lake, my serenity is rippled but not ruffled.

> These small waves raised by the evening wind are as remote from storm as the smooth reflecting surface. Though it is now dark, the wind still blows and roars in the wood, the waves still dash, and some creatures lull the rest with their notes. The repose is never complete. The wildest animals do not repose, but

seek their prey now; the fox, and skunk, and rabbit, now roam the fields and woods without fear. They are Nature's watch-

of the forest into their hands to play with... which they leave,

"They who come When I return to my house I find that visitors have been there rarely to the woods and left their cards, either a bunch of flowers, or a wreath of take some little piece evergreen, or a name in pencil on a yellow walnut leaf or a chip. They who come rarely to the woods take some little piece of the forest into their hands to play with by the way, which they leave, either intentionally or accidentally. One has peeled a willow wand, woven it into a ring, and dropped it on my table. $\textbf{either intentionally} \quad \text{1 could always tell if visitors had called in my absence, either }$ or accidentally." by the bended twigs or grass, or the print of their shoes, and generally of what sex or age or quality they were by some slight trace left, as a flower dropped, or a bunch of grass plucked and thrown away, even as far off as the railroad, half a mile distant, or by the lingering odor of a cigar or pipe. Nay, I was frequently notified of the passage of a traveller along the highway sixty rods off by the scent of his pipe.

men,-links which connect the days of animated life.

There is commonly sufficient space about us. Our horizon is never quite at our elbows. The thick wood is not just at our door, nor the pond, but somewhat is always clearing, familiar and worn by us, appropriated and fenced in some way, and reand circuit, some square miles of unfrequented forest, for my privacy, abandoned to me by men? My nearest neighbor is a mile distant, and no house is visible from any place but the hilltops within half a mile of my own. I have my horizon bounded by woods all to myself; a distant view of the railroad where it touches the pond on the one hand, and of the fence which skirts the woodland road on the other. But for the most part it is as solitary where I live as on the prairies. It is as much Asia or Africa as New England. I have, as it were, my own sun and moon and stars, and a little world all to myself. At night there was never a traveller passed my house, or knocked at my door, more than if I were the first or last man; unless it were in the spring, when at long intervals some came from the village to fish for pouts,-they plainly fished much more in the Walden Pond of their own natures, and baited their hooks with darkness,-but they soon retreated, usually with light baskets, and left "the world to darkness and to me," and the black kernel of the night was never profaned by any human neighborhood. I believe that men are generally still a little afraid of the dark, though the witches are all hung, and Christianity and candles have been introduced.

"While I enjoy the Yet I experienced sometimes that the most sweet and tender, friendship of the the most innocent and encouraging society may be found in seasons, I trust that any natural object, even for the poor misanthrope and most melancholy man. There can be no very black melancholy to him who lives in the midst of Nature and has his senses still, a burden to me." There was never yet such a storm but it was Æolian music to a healthy and innocent ear. Nothing can rightly compel a simple

Gala Sans (2020)

Fun, funky, and functional.

Gala Sans is a sans-serif display typeface, that takes inspiration from the round, organic nature of apples. A hand-written feel helps give this quirky* typeface a little more personality.



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