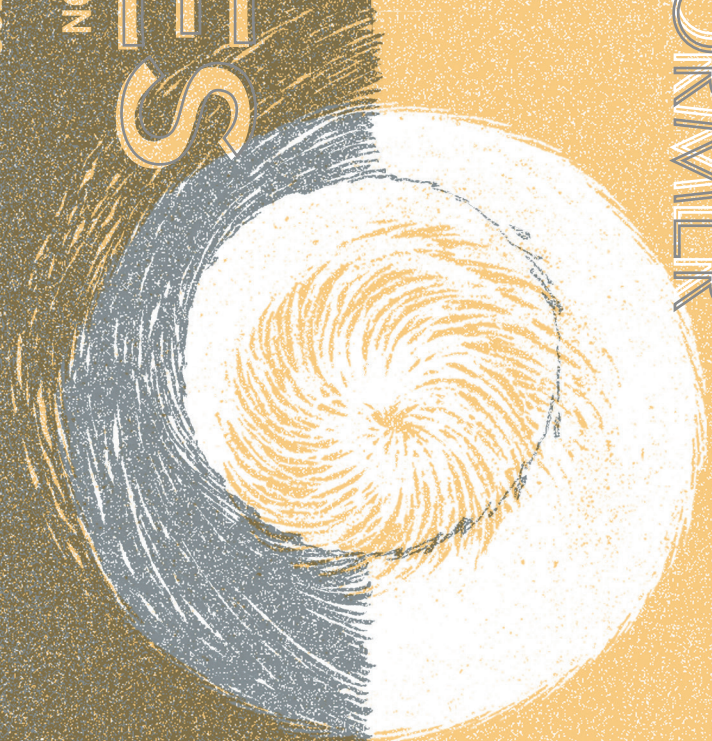


TRANSFORMER

E17: ZINES

AYANA ZAIRE COTTON
JENNIFER LILLIS
LATE COMEBACK PRESS
ATHENA NAYLOR
EYVAN ROBERTS
JULIE SHEAH



transformer
1404 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

transformer is a Washington, DC based 501(c)(3) artist-centered, non-profit, visual arts organization, providing a consistent, supportive, and professional platform for emerging artists to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, build audiences for their work, and advance their careers. A catalyst and advocate for contemporary, at-risk, and emergent expression in the visual arts, transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists within regional, national, and international contexts through exhibition and program partnerships with artist, curators, arts leaders, and a diverse range of cultural & educational institutions.

Image and design:
Christopher Kardambikis

EXERCISES 17: ZINES

Transformer is honored to announce **E17: Zines**, the 17th year of our **Exercises for Emerging Artists** program – an annual peer critique and mentorship program for DC-based emerging artists. Centered on a different artistic discipline each year, **E17: Zines** is supporting and promoting seven artists interested in zines and DIY publishing: **Ayana Zaire Cotton, Jennifer Lillis, Athena Naylor, Late Comeback Press (Rachna Soun and Caroline Kim), Eryan Roberts, and Julie Sheah.**

E17: Zines was led by leading guest mentor **Christopher Kardambikis** - artist, Assistant Professor and Director of Navigation Press, a master printmaking residency, at the School of Art at George Mason University, with coordination by **Katie Lee**, Transformer's Exhibitions & Programming Coordinator.

In response to COVID-19, all **E17: Zines** peer critique and mentorship sessions were conducted via Zoom calls this spring. As the traditional, in person, culminating summer exhibition of works created through the program is not feasible, this poster/mailer highlighting the artworks each artist created through **E17: Zines** will be circulated via US Mail, with a digital version shared on Transformer's website. Zine artworks created by each artist will be available for purchase through Transformer's online store beginning July 29th.

To learn more about **E17: Zines**, the artists, and their work, please join Transformer for a series of online panel conversations this summer in collaboration with the **Paper Cuts** podcast. **Paper Cuts** is an exploration of the contemporary world of zines and DIY publishing. Through a series of podcasts and live events, **Paper Cuts** features writers, performers, and artists who have shared their work in print, on paper, and in small editions.

Free; advance registration required.

Wednesday, July 29th, 2020, 6-7pm:

Ayana Zaire Cotton & Jennifer Lillis

Wednesday, August 5th, 2020, 6-7pm:

Athena Naylor & Late Comeback Press

Wednesday, August 12th, 2020, 6-7pm:

Julie Sheah & Eryan Roberts

For more information about **E17: Zines** visit: transformerdc.org

OUR MENTORS

#Blkgirlsworld ZINE (Christina Long & Courtney Long) is a small press based in Harlem, New York that celebrates and documents Women of Color who participate in heavy music genres like Metalcore, Hardcore, Punk and Black Metal.

Erica Federhen is a designer, illustrator, maker and creative director of **Ipsy Bipsy Studio** in Washington, DC. Ipsy Bipsy Studio is independently operated by Erica, who prints and hand crafts every item with care and intention.

Malaka Gharib is an artist, journalist, writer based in Washington, DC, and author of *I WAS THEIR AMERICAN DREAM*. She is the founder of *The Runcible Spoon*, a food zine, and the co-founder of the DC Art Book Fair.

Adam Griffiths is a cartoonist, illustrator, and artist living in Takoma Park, Maryland who approaches his cartoons as a visionary agent that skates the edges of contemporary art, illustration, outsider art, and underground comics. His artwork explores the symbolisms and mutabilities in historical imperialism and the overall class system.

Monica Johnson is a comix zinester, community organizer, curator, and mama living in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently Managing Director at **Booklyn**, a not-for-profit artist and bookmakers' organization in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Adriana Monsalve is an artist, book maker, and educator, located in the DMV. She is the co-founder of **Homie House Press**, a skeleton bones crew of femmes creating, publishing, and reclaiming their space and power in the foto book medium.

Risolve Studio (Lyndsey Burke & Sebastian Burke) is a family-operated print and design studio located in downtown Lancaster, PA, run by husband and wife team Sebastian and Lyndsey Burke. Founded in 2017, Risolve was born from a shared love of printmaking, design and innovation, and celebrates Riso printing and works to expand the technical limits and boundaries of the digital duplicator process.

E17: Zines is generously supported by The Robert Lehman Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities/NEA and The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

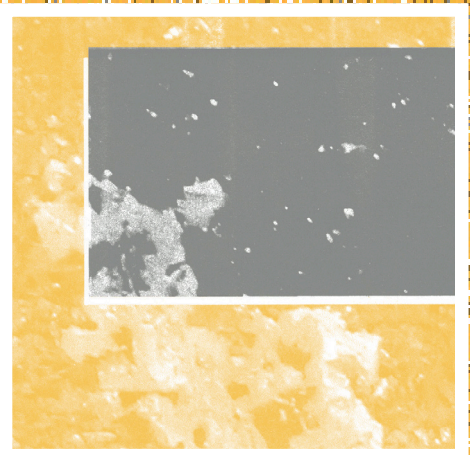


AYANA ZAIRE COTTON

SEEDA SYLLABUS

Ayana Zaire Cotton is a transdisciplinary artist visualizing and collectively crafting a post-work future. Her research has manifested in her work via independent publishing, virtually teaching software engineering to students worldwide, and an experimental fashion line as a platform on labor studies and aesthetics. As an artist, designer, and software engineer Ayana feels "educator" is a title that most resonates with the full possibilities of her mediums, goals, and practice.

Seeda Syllabus is a fill-in-the-blank syllabus as an unlearning framework. Designed as a 'worksheet' the syllabus is inspired by the contemplation-inducing work of Audre Lorde. The syllabus helps participants organize and share what they currently need to ask and read, with the intention of making unlearning and engaging our radical imagination a public, social activity.



JENNIFER LILLIS

UNEARTH

Jennifer Lillis is a multi-disciplinary artist that explores the theme of transformation in the function and materiality of objects through the ritualization of her creative practice.

unearth is a poetic exploration of the function, intention and transformation of art within the context of ritual and sacred spaces. This is a guide of the witness as they embark on their journey of unearthing...



LATE COMEBACK PRESS

SHUDDER

Late Comeback Press is a Northern Virginia micropress run by Rachna Soun and Caroline Kim, specializing in avant-garde zines. Communication and existentialism are the center of their art, flourishing in the space before choices are made, when the possibilities can seem paralyzingly endless or distinctively finite.

Rather than creating a conventional book, they explore the boundaries to create a zine inside of a toy camera. By taking apart the cameras and replacing the reels inside with an eight-panel horror story, a nostalgic toy is transformed to an unsettling, cinematic scare.



ATHENA NAYLOR

DAILIES III

Athena Naylor is a cartoonist originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, now living in Washington, DC. Through comics, Athena considers what makes the mundane meaningful and how big stories reside within small, everyday events. Alongside her self-published collections of autobiographical comics, Athena has had work featured in *The Lily* and *Nat. Brut*. Her comic *The Checkout Counter* was published through the podcast-publishing venture Paper Cuts. Her work can be found at athenanaylor.com and on Instagram @athena.naylor

In the third installment of her diary comic series *Dailies*, Athena documents moments from late 2018 to early 2020 (pre-quarantine). This collection includes odes to friendship, notes on family trips, Halloween gender-feelings, and experiencing sympathy for the mice in your shitty apartment.

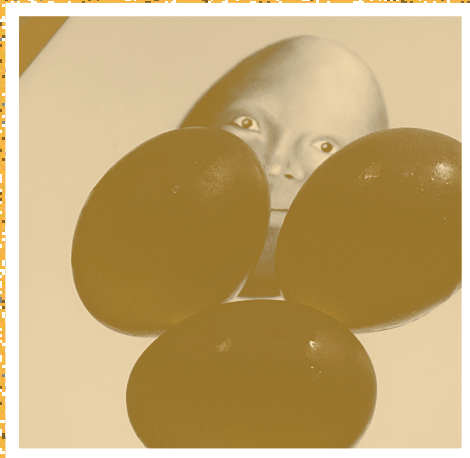


EVYAN ROBERTS

RUMINATIONS

Evyan Roberts (she/her) is a queer, fat, black, femme who is deeply committed to intersectional feminism and #blackgirlmagic. She lives in MD and is currently pursuing a Masters in Social Work where she intends to keep working to promote equity for sex workers and trans folx. Her writing has appeared in the poetry anthology *A Garden of Black Joy: Global Poetry from the Edges of Liberation and Living*, as well as in online literary journals such as *Kissing Dynamite* where she was the featured poet for August 2019, *Ithaca Lit*, *Not Your Mother's Breast Milk*, *Rogue Agent*, and elsewhere.

A reimagining of mental aches and my body's anguish; circling back through all of the skin and pain and asking, "where does my trauma sleep"?



JULIE SHEAH

BAD EGG

Julie Sheah is a graphic artist whose drawings explore the horrors and curiosities of otherwise ordinary subjects. She has a keen interest in the surreal and absurd and is an avid connoisseur of puns. As a first-generation Taiwanese-American, growing up in rural Texas gave her an odd sense of humor that came from grappling with social isolation, Otherness, and dual culture identity. Today she lives in Washington, DC where she continues to draw and create visual puns through her artists' books.

Eggs hold more meaning in Chinese culture than just a kitchen staple. *Bad Egg* shares the many personality traits conveyed through eggs in Mandarin as well as recipes to classic Chinese dishes in an exploration of linguistic and culinary curiosities.