

AN ART X ACTIVISM MANIFESTO

ARTIVISM

Art is a tool for the Revolution

EDUCATE TO LIBERATE

Use art to raise Political Consciousness

FUCK YOU! PAY US! Artists are Cultural Workers

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

If it's not accessible, it's NOT revolutionary

CREATE TO LIBERATE

Creative expression is the foundation of our freedom

COMM/UNITY

The practice of creating together is part of revolutionary work

AUTHENTICITY IS POWER

Counter mainstream narratives and celebrate individuality

REVOLUTION IS LOVE

Create Communities of care. Radical art for the mind, body and soul

HOPE IS ON THE HORIZON

Art and culture help us to imagine + create futures of freedom + joy

This zine is a tribute to

Brad Kress (*my dad, comrade and best friend*) **and**
Angela Francis (*one of the greatest DJs and Bristolians*)

And to everyone who is grieving right now.

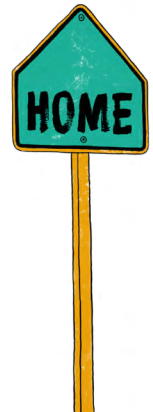


My wish is that you find a slice of motivation
within these pages.

The kind that makes you feel as if the sun is on your
cheek and hope is on the horizon.

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY DAD

Happy mother's day dad.

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner. I thought about writing but I just never really knew what to say.

I didn't write you, but I drew. Did you get my drawings?

I hope you got the one of the sun rising over the Brooklyn Bridge while we eat dunkin' donuts down by the water?

Or the one of us playing on that roof top, under the shooting stars?

What about the one where you lift me in your arms and we throw messages of solidarity on paper planes over those immigration detention bars?

How about the one of us at the kitchen table where I'm eating a giant bowl of cheerios and you're pouring a glass of that pure pressed honey-crisp apple juice? I can't remember whether I liked the taste of that or if I just liked whatever you liked.

Or the one of me in a buggy and hand-me-down mismatch clothing at a demonstration for Colin Roach in Dalston?

I pray you got the one where we're snuggled up in one of your quilts and you're reading us the Bernstein Bears. That one is my favourite.

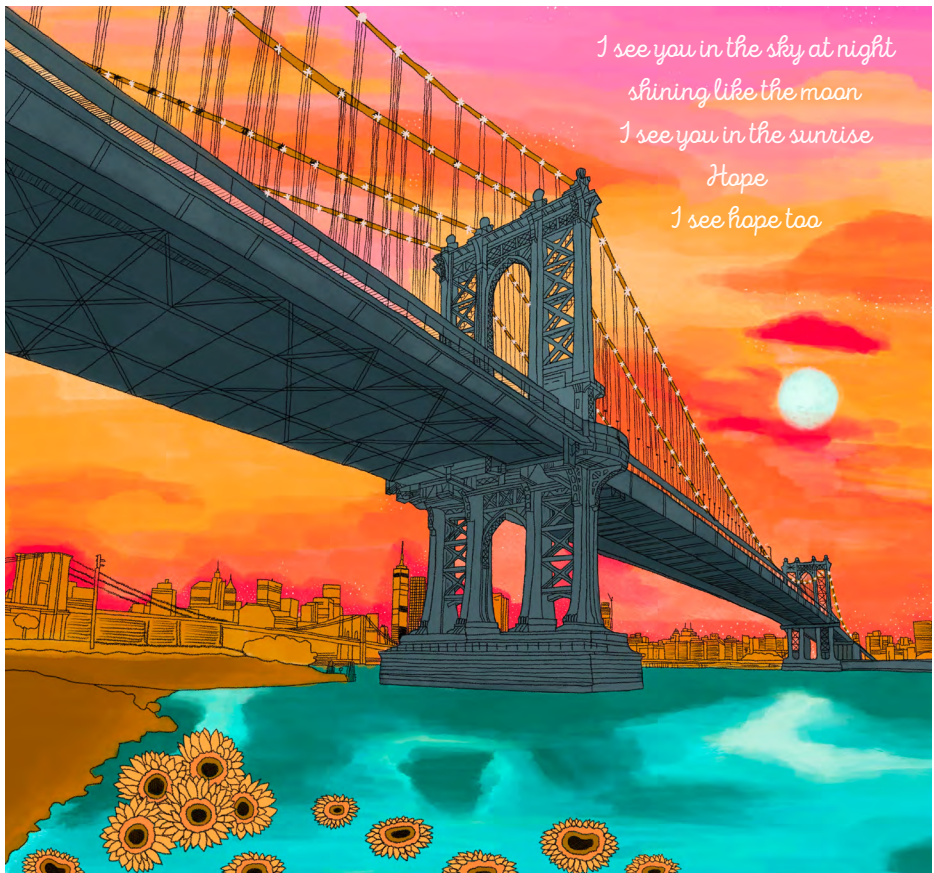
We all slept in bed under that quilt the night you left too. Your absence felt like an unexpected draft and no matter how much I wriggled I couldn't get my feet warm.

When I woke up, I felt as if the dream had seamlessly continued. I was floating out at sea, paralysed in an pool of salty tears. The water lapped over me, crashing against the rocks and consuming everything in its path. I tried to hold on but there was nothing really to grasp. I wished you were there to wrap me up in that huge towel you warmed on the radiator.

Is this what you felt like that hot sticky summer when your best friend died by suicide? Like a wave of emotion was swallowing you whole? Like you'd lost something you knew you'd never find? As if the shivers had become you and your throat would be locked closed to air forever?

I drew lots to you then. For hours and hours and hours, I drew. I dived in to the creases of your brow and the dimples of your smile.

I got lost in liberation literature and rooted for the hope you'd found. Did you find it in MOVE's resistance throughout the decades of repression? How about the fact that Kwame Nkrumah walked down the very same streets as you, or did Assata Shakur's energy breath life into your soul? Maybe you found solace in George Jackson's ability to transcend time? Did the artistic expressions of Pankhurst, Kahlo, Douglas and Basquiat motivate you too? Were you captured by joy in your moments of movement and spellbound by watching Alvin Ailey's Grace? Or maybe it was in the way music made you feel... Did you discover hope in the words of Tupac as he spoke directly to the pain? Or maybe it was Klash, Sizzla and Holt that got you through the day?



Consciousness ran through me like an electric current deepening the wounds still wide open from the injustice of losing you. What gauze could cover up these ruptures and heal all the scars? How would I ever drown away the pain? Just as you were stolen, so too was my faith that justice in this world was even possible.

What faith could exist when they stripped Indigenous people of their culture and colonise the lands? When they enslaved millions of African people, separating families by seas. When they dropped atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? When they gunned down children in Vietnam? When they vilified and murdered Patrice Lumumba, Thomas Sankara, Steve Biko? When they shot Fred Hampton, while he slept in his bed? When they illegally blockaded Cuba? When they occupy the West Bank and Gaza? When they waged war in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Mum bought me sunflowers to remind me that there was beauty in the world.

I drew them so they would not die.

Studying them made me think about the uniqueness in nature and how there would never be another you. I drew the solidness of the stems, contemplating ways to rip out the roots of Imperialism. I outlined the delicate petals through my rage trying not to crush them with the weight of the pencil.

That night I lay wrapped in your quilt again,. Eyes closed, I breathed in your scent trying to compile my own patchwork pieces. I stitched memories together creating small dresses for

children that you will never meet. Each section dedicated to things that reminded me of you.

Your voice rang in my head:

*'Agygy
Sportsfan,
what you
doin?'*

I placed Arsenal, the Phillie's and the Orioles along the front with batting on the back. I embroidered roses to depict La Vie En Rose, laced with thorns like those Edith Piaf had endured. I wove in the fabrics of your motherland with bright burnt orange pumpkins, a gentle sleepy moon and a shiny smiling sun. I stencilled palm trees for your eternal life and leopards for your individuality.





You've been gone so long now,
sometimes I wonder if I dreamt you.
But just like reoccurring dreams,
I still see you from time to time.

I see you when my sister types at the
computer with pages of research and
scribbles only she can understand
scattered across the table. I see you in
the communities of care she builds up
around us and that inquisitive look she
gives me when I say something she's
unsure of.



I see you in the little ones too you
know. It's been like watching small
seeds you planted grow, blooming
even after you're gone. I see you
in their features, their ringlets, their
mischief, their scowls. I see you in
the games we play that spark that
innocent, contagious, uncontrollable
kind of laughter that makes them
bubble over with excitement. They
like to be swung around just how you
swung me. I am their playground, just
as you were mine. Do you remember
how I would jump and climb and flip
off of you, like Simba with Mufasa?



I see you in people who knew you,
their unrelenting commitment and
determination for a world where we
are all truly free.

Free to express ourselves without the
limitations of binaries and chains.

Free to connect with one another, just
as roots connect with soil.



Dad - I see you in
the sky at night
shining like the moon

I see you in the sunrise
Hope -
I see hope too

I see you in
my mother's arms
full of love and joy
I see you in the
Chesapeake Bay
four states east of Illinois

I see you in
the stack of books
that I'm reading
all at once
I see you in
the vivid colours
throughout the
autumn
months

I see you in the
summertime
where the
long
nights
must be

Dad
I see you in a lot of things

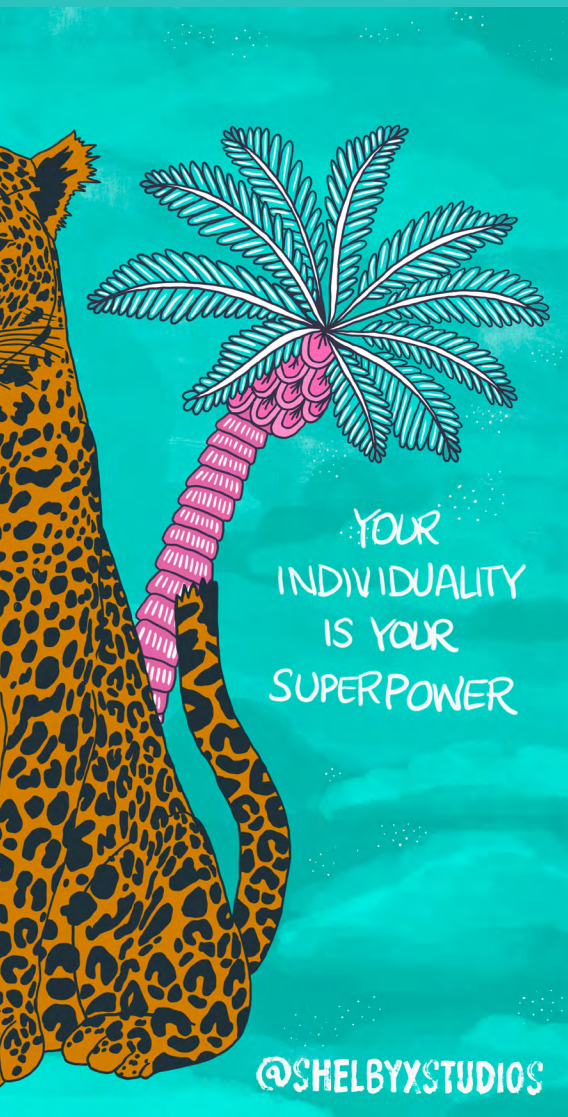
I see you in me

Shelby x Studios is a tribute to my dad, who I lost to cancer as a teenager. A unique human in every way, he didn't conform to gender norms, had an incredible ability to bring communities together and was a committed revolutionary. He taught me to embrace the things that make me unique and see them as my superpowers. This illustration is a little reminder that fear is something we should acknowledge and accept in order to find our inner courage. Sharing this work feels daunting, but there's something about owning and accepting fear that translates into courage for me.

We tend to think of grief as something only felt after a death, but really grief is about loss. And we've all experienced loss at some point. This zine was born out of grief. Grief that came from losing faith in humanity whilst learning about the depths of Capitalism. Grief for the loss of my dad. Grief for the loss of my good friend, Angela. Grief for the loss of my health. And the added grief we are all now experiencing, for the things we've lost as a result of the pandemic.



The English language alone, with its singular alphabet, doesn't seem capable of capturing the depths of the emotions of grief. Maybe even all 6,500 languages on this planet can't manage that.

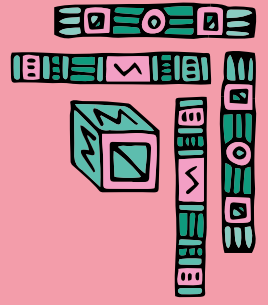
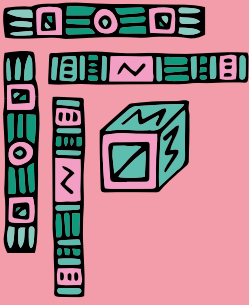


In fact, part of the reason I draw is because I have found it so hard to find the words to communicate how I feel about the world. And so this zine aims to use creativity as a tool for revolution. To help capture and share some of the ways in which I believe we can heal and grow; through creative expression, political action, sisterhood, education, rest and joy...

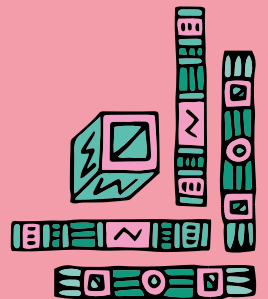
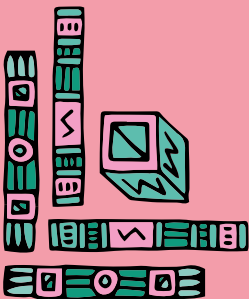
This zine is also about recognising, celebrating and platforming creativity that builds community solidarity, supports grassroots campaigns and imagines better ways of living.

A special thank you to everyone involved in this first issue. The world really needs your talents, insights and artistry. Let's create change!

USE YOUR POWER



THE
SYSTEM
ISN'T BROKEN
IT WAS BUILT
THIS WAY



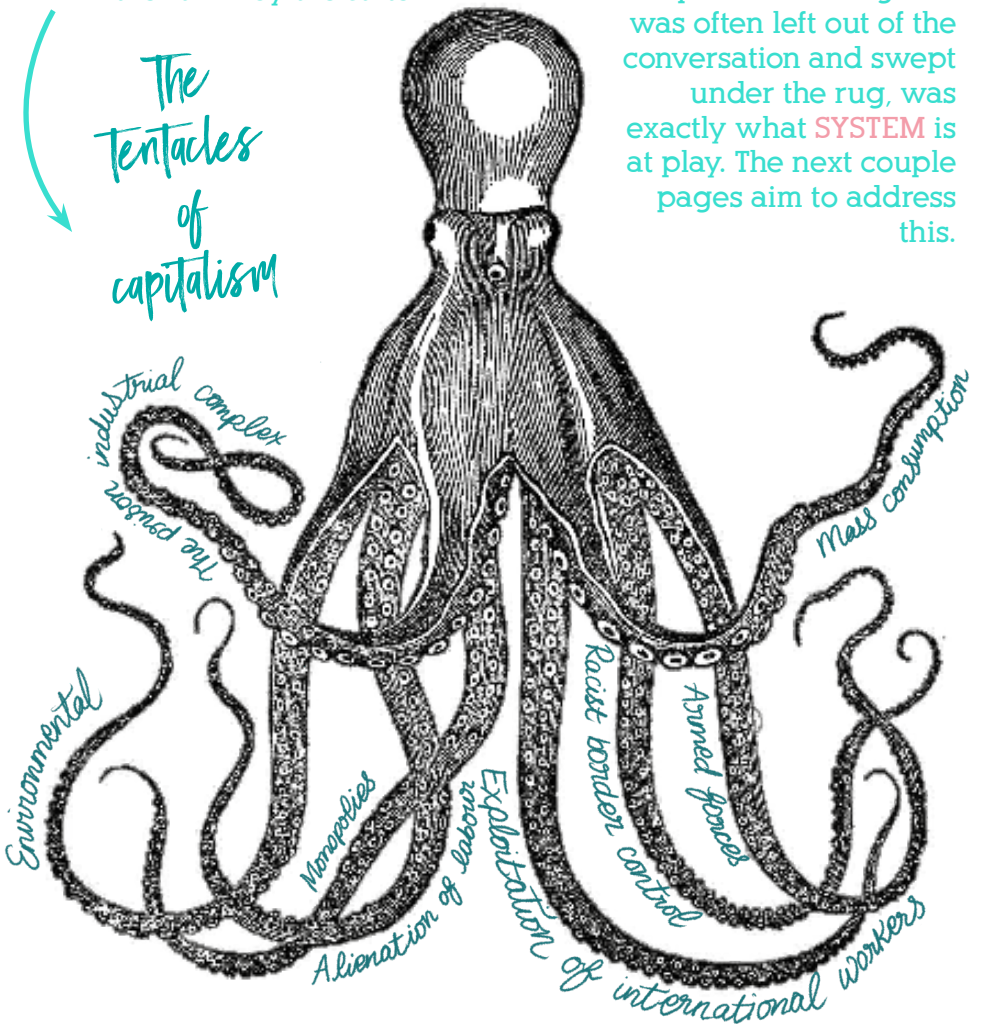
WEALTH REQUIRES POVERTY

Capitalism

A political and economic system in which a country's trade, industry and means of production are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

2020 elevated consciousness in lots of ways, in large part due to the pandemic. Access barriers, systemic racism and globalisation were further exposed as they reached new depths. One thing that was often left out of the conversation and swept under the rug, was exactly what **SYSTEM** is at play. The next couple pages aim to address this.

The tentacles of capitalism



The issues that have been deepened over the course of the pandemic are nothing new.

There are so many damaging layers to Capitalism, which interlink and overlap, that it can feel impossible to untangle them.

Each individual tentacle is dangerous in of itself; environmental degradation, the prison industrial complex, monopolies of power and wealth, alienation of labour, military and arms trade, racist border control, exploitation of international labour, mass consumption. But each of these symptoms can not be dealt with individually without us then being consumed by another. They interlink and overlap, they hold each other up and they all operate on the basis of hierarchy. For someone to be at the top, many have to be at the bottom. This is where structural patriarchal, white supremacist, ableist, homophobic systems begin, alongside a binary. Both of which categorize people (workers) to divide and rule.

That is why we must look at the root cause to find solutions and build alternative ways of living. We don't have to

look too far, as these systems already exist.

We have been told this is the only way to live. But that is a lie. We know it's a lie, because last year we saw things, that we were previously told were impossible, transform pretty much overnight. A furlough system that paid UK workers 80% of pay to stay home, a new recognition of the needs of worker who are also parents and carers, adaptations to allow accessible working from home.

The system isn't broken it was built this way. The economic system of Capitalism is rooted in exploitation. In order for Capitalism to function and wealth to be generated, there must be exploitation and poverty. The wealth accumulated by Capitalists comes directly from the exploitation of labour and the international plunder of resources, both historically and currently. Our economic systems were set up by rich, white, cis, able-bodied men and continue to benefit their interests perfectly.

Under Capitalism:

4.1M children in the UK alone live in poverty. 365,000 of those children are classified as destitute. A staggeringly shocking statistic given that we live in one of the world's wealthiest nations. This number was 10.5M children in the USA (2019), another of the world's wealthiest nations.

In the UK, nurses pay has fallen by 7.4% since 2010 in real terms and there was a shortfall of 22,000 nurses specialising in caring for adult patients (2015).



Meanwhile, community and mutual aid groups have always filled the gaps:

Looking back to 1969 through the early 1970s, the Black Panthers' Free Breakfast Program fed tens of thousands of hungry kids across the USA. And inspiring activists like Chairman Fred Hampton, worked to lift poor communities out of poverty.



Meanwhile in Communist Cuba...

28,000 Cuban Drs are supporting overseas, and brigades have been sent after earthquakes in Indonesia and Pakistan, Cholera outbreaks in Haiti, the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and now to support with the covid19 pandemic across Europe.

TEST! TEST! TEST!
P.P.E



**KEEP OUR
KEY WORKERS
VIRUS FREE!!**

WHO IS MUMIA?

AWARD WINNING
JOURNALIST



FORMER
BLACK PANTHER



SPEAKS OUT AGAINST

RACISM
OPPRESSION
AND INJUSTICE

POLITICAL PRISONER



'We're in the midst of a movement that says Black Lives Matter, and if that's truly the case, then it means that Mumia's life and legacy must matter.'

- Colin Kaepernick

World renowned journalist. Former black panther. Political activist. Political prisoner. One of our foremost teachers.'

These are some of the ways Mumia Abu-Jamal was introduced at the November 2020 Freedom and Abolition press conference.

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

WHY IS HE IN PRISON?

TARGETED FOR
POLITICAL ACTIVISM



witnesses paid off



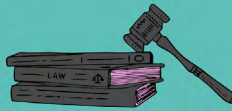
FALSELY CONVICTED
OF KILLING POLICE OFFICER

RACIST
'JUSTICE' SYSTEM

black jurors
removed from case



judge = Known racist!



Mumia's case is not an historical injustice: it is a decades-long systemic struggle that represents racist policing, the relentless US attack on black activists and a particularly deep level of corruption within the Philadelphia police department.

Join the fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Wrongfully convicted of the 1981 killing of a white police officer, Mumia was sentenced to death in 1982. Prior to his arrest Mumia was a target of COINTELPRO, a series of covert and illegal projects conducted by the FBI aimed at disrupting and derailing the activities of political activists.

From the outset the prosecution was beset with racism, coercion and corruption. A photographer on the scene moments after has documented that forensics were tainted and police accounts of vehicles near the scene were misrepresented. The key witness has since recounted her statement and said she was arrested and threatened with jail time if she didn't name Mumia as the perpetrator, and other witnesses were paid off. Black jurors were unlawfully removed and journalists who reported on the case were investigated by the police. The judge, Albert Sabo, was overheard saying: 'Yeah and I'm gonna help 'em fry the n*****'.

All this against the backdrop of a city administration which four years later in 1985 would bomb its own citizens, killing 11 people, including five children and destroying 61 homes. Those killed were members of MOVE, a Black liberation organisation.

Despite his imprisonment, Mumia, a long-time supporter of MOVE, used his voice to shout out against this state bombing, and he continues to use his incredible skill for narrative to report on injustices across the globe too, linking them to the same systems of oppression that keep him behind bars. He is an international symbol of the fight against US imperialism and the revolutionary resistance to racist state violence.

We must continue to fight for Mumia's freedom.

In 2011, 30 years into his time on death row, Mumia's death sentence was revised to life without parole and he was moved in to the general prison population. In 2019, the discovery of new evidence meant his case was found to merit a new trial, which is yet to take place.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- 1 SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE
SEE THE FREE MUMIA HIGHLIGHT @SHELBYXSTUDIOS
- 2 FOLLOW MUMIA'S BROADCASTS ON
PRISON RADIO
- 3 JOIN THE CAMPAIGN
@FreeMumiaBritain ON FACEBOOK
AND @BRINGMUMIAHOME ON INSTAGRAM



Let's build communities, not cages!

Meanwhile, Mumia, who is now aged 66 and suffers from diabetes and hepatitis, has had to battle to receive appropriate medical care against state authorities which withheld treatment against the advice of their own doctors.

In the current climate of exposed state violence and systemic racism, as well as the threat of Covid-19 in prisons, the fight to free Mumia is as urgent as it has always been.

It was campaigning that got him taken off Death Row and an international movement that ensured he got access to the medical treatment he needed in 2016. That same energy is now needed to free him from prison.

Listen to Mumia's broadcasts at

www.prisonradio.org

and join the campaign to free him and all political prisoners. Contact the campaign directly: bringmumiahome@gmail.com

*A series of essays was released by Kaepernick's publishing company in October 2020 entitled Abolition for the People: the Movement for a Future Without Policing & Prisons.



STANDING UP FOR

ARTISTS ARE KEY

As we tread carefully into 2021, now is the time to set our intentions as creatives and cultural consumers. Art is romanticised as a labour of love, so artists are not valued for their time in the same way as any other occupation. Why is this and what can we do to change this narrative?

When we look back to the Renaissance period, the likes of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci were paid well by their patrons. The arts then became further rooted in spirituality, ultimately glamourising the myth of "the starving artist" who devoted their life to their craft. Fast forward to the 19th century, only those wealthy enough were able to pursue creative interests, without fear of going hungry at least. To this day, there is a residual anxiety around pursuing a career in the arts, especially for those who have bills to pay.

We live in an age of social enterprise, charity, and government funding bodies, who offer funding and educational support for creatives. This spreads quite thin. Artists find themselves embodying the creator, the promoter, and the administrator - all before the promise of payment. Having an entrepreneurial mindset and building a network becomes part of the job description. It is important to remember that being business minded does not diminish the integrity of the work - artists can work voluntarily at their discretion, but free work should not be the norm.

They won't teach this in schools, so without going into the failures of the school system,

*Let's focus
on five ways
in which we
can create the
change we want
to see;*

Be transparent.

Pricing work is undoubtedly the biggest fear for early career artists. Undercutting fellow artists out of fear of losing a commission, or setting low budgets for the arts simply perpetuates the problem of artists not being paid enough, or at all. Being transparent with each other as creatives and consumers about the value of the work is essential.

FOR ARTISTS

WORKERS

By Lauren Maria Hill

Encourage others. Creativity is inherent in everybody in some way or another. The language of art, however, is something that takes experience to understand and appreciate. Art and culture shapes our reality on every level, offering so much more than aesthetic. The world has enough critics already - share your knowledge and encourage others to engage with the arts!

Build your tribe. The arts are relevant and active outside of the leading institutions, with community at the heart of it. Reach out to a diverse range of interests and discover how you can learn from and motivate others. There is a vibrancy like no other in the thriving scenes of grassroots level initiatives. Start from the ground up; from the local paint jam, to the passionate activism groups. This is where culture exists. Be open minded and proud of your background. The arts sector needs engagement from all corners of society in order to progress and create real systemic change.

Be an advocate. Arts advocacy is needed now more than ever since Covid-19 changed the world. It's up to us as creatives and consumers to stand up for the arts, by championing the important work happening within creative industries. Art continues to bring the world together throughout the toughest of times. We must support the future of the artist by sharing our opinions and insights with our community and public spaces. You can contribute your views in many ways, such as; sharing artwork, signing petitions, and attending online discussions.

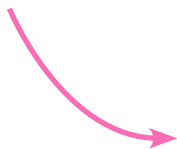
Ground yourself. During uncertain times such as these, it is important to focus on self-care. Taking on the weight of the world will lead to burnout - very quickly. Know your limits and take breaks from the virtual world. Embrace the idea that rest and reflection are essential to positive progression - recharge and align yourself with what matters most to you in this moment.

And remember, artists are key workers.

PARYS GARDENER

Parys Gardener is an award-winning contemporary digital illustrator based in Bristol, UK. As well as being commissioned for a project with Banksy and creating engaging editorial design for the likes of gal-dem zine, she recently debuted her own solo exhibition in Amsterdam. Her illustrations centre the experience of black British women and she has a passion for communicating theories surrounding identity and culture, taking inspiration from her background and family history. You'll find elements of popular culture, intersectional feminism, Black and Caribbean British stories throughout her colourful, vibrant and engaging illustrations.

Limited edition A3 prints of Parys' beautiful illustration are available in our online shop www.shelbyxstudios.com



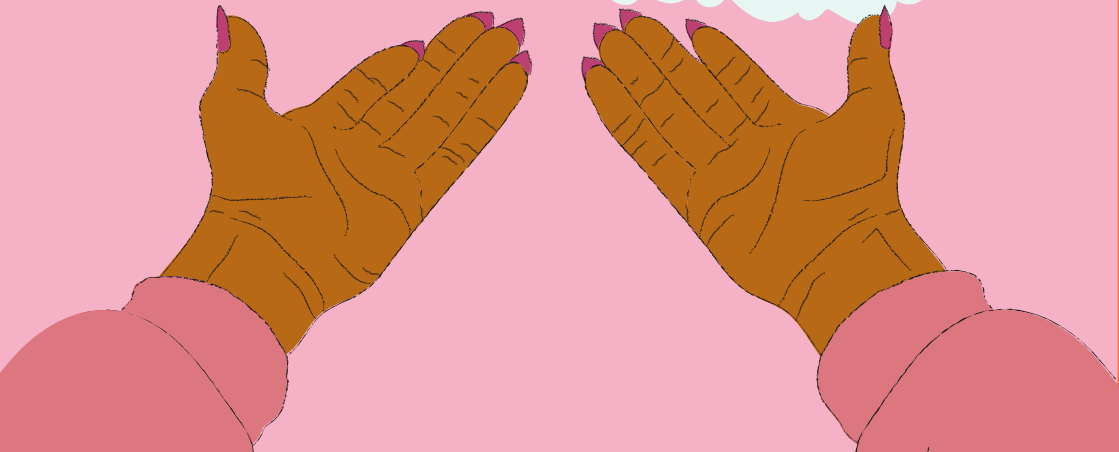


One thing I've learnt throughout both my activist and artistic work, is that the more we support one another, the further we go. I asked Euella how we could tackle inequality in the arts and culture sector, she said:

"Bring people in!"

This is such an important statement and speaks to opposing the idea that in order to succeed we have to keep things to ourselves. Let's bring people in and raise one another up.

WE RISE BY
LIFTING
OTHERS

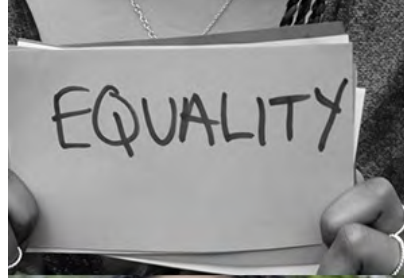


EUELLA JACKSON

WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?

I'm Euella, a content creator and film-maker based in Bristol. This is my film, 'What Are You Fighting For?', that explores the myriad of things that touch us to create change. As a young black woman, I recognise that in our society, there is a difference in the way we treat 'politics' and 'the political'. Politics is something that the elite feel entitled to - a sphere where policies are entrenched with classism and racism (to name just two). 'Political' on the other hand, is a term that is often used to censor and silence the marginalised from demanding a better world - "that feels too political" or "we expect our employees to be a-political on social media" - since when was demanding for a fairer, just world a bad thing? Unless you went to private school and you have a politics degree, and you only care about politics in terms of the welfare of institutions and systems, then you are not afforded the same privilege to be taken seriously. This film serves as a hopeful reminder that regardless of our background or whether we've got a degree, we're all fighting for something, and that's something to celebrate.

To watch the film [click here](#).



Revolution is about creation.

We have been taught to fear the idea of revolution and the radicalization required for it.

And I want us to reflect on why this is. Why so many of us fear what is necessary for the achievement of the greater good. Why we are intentionally taught that most must suffer so that few can thrive. That we are not all worthy of nourishment, shelter, healthcare, education, and justice. That this way is the only way, and even the best way.

Revolution is not about destruction. Those who conceptualize it as such do so as a deterrent to change. I implore you to think about who has a monopoly over violence in our current systems, and who are the victims of it.

When we call for the need for revolution, we are calling for the dismantling of the oppressive systems which are themselves inherently violent yes, but more importantly, recognizing the possibilities for and committing to the rebuilding of more just, equitable, and free communities as alternatives.

Revolution is fundamentally about joy. It is our birthright. It is about honoring our imaginations for possibilities beyond that which we have been told is the way things must be. It is believing that alternatives, radical alternatives, are both needed, and are possible, and that reforming a system dependent on exploitation and suffering is not.

Revolution is about creation.

The ability to envision these worlds requires our radicalization.

The word radical itself comes from the latin radicalis, meaning root. To be radical means that we examine the very root of the violence and inequalities in our society- white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchal violence - and to change the fundamental nature of how we choose to exist with one another.

Revolution and radicalization have been demonized as threatening processes, which should be feared and prevented amongst the people. But let us ask ourselves:

For whom would fundamental change be threatening?

Why are radical possibilities depicted as impossible or evil?

Who stands to lose from a more equitable distribution of power - both in resources and in decision-making?

It is clear that fundamental change is needed. The injustices which we bear witness to continue to prompt us towards it.

Rather than fearing revolution, we should instead fear our complacency.

Let us fear our willingness to accept deaths and suffering in our Black and brown communities- which have always included children, standing by the destruction of our Earth, the caging and inhumane treatment of our kin, and intentional exploitation and marginalization of the global majority.

Let us fear the consequences of our inaction, when we have at our disposal the tools- the sacred connections, resourcefulness, creativity, communal care, etc.- needed to not only dismantle, but to construct a world worthy of all of us.

We are so much more than our current ways of doing at the expense of others.

We are so much more than this.

If you have not yet been radicalized, what will it take for you to want and work for a world different than this?

By Sameen Abbaf

YOU ARE APPRECIATED



This billboard was a tribute to my friend Angela Francis, whose life and work should be appreciated for the tremendous impact she had. Angela was a talented and unique individual. As renowned DJ Lady Gee, one of the first female black DJs in Bristol, she had a way of making you feel, see and even taste music. Her home was a display of her creativity, covered in rich peachy tones, gold and leopard print. Her incredible painted sculptural artworks took pride of place alongside her record collection and posters that represented her interests in spirituality, musicians such as Peter Tosh and radical activist - Angela Davis.

She was an outspoken activist, always aware of black history and not afraid to speak her mind. She was heavily involved in organising community events such 'freedom 90' which celebrated the release of Nelson Mandela and a series of events to mark the bicentennial of the ending of the slave trade in 2007. Her vivacious character is witnessed in her going out in the streets dressed in costume from 1800s reminding everyone that although slavery might have ended, black people continue to suffer. After the uprising in St Pauls, Bristol, in 1980, Angela was on a cover of the New Statesman magazine. She was also crowned carnival queen at least once.

APPRECIATED

Photographed alongside the billboard is Angela's son, Paul Francis, who made this month's revolutionary playlist.

BIG SHOUT to the whole Francis family!

We often celebrate people from history and those in the public eye. 'You Are Appreciated' is a project that highlights and acknowledges the contribution of every day community activists. The people who may be known in their local community, but not wider afield. The people who do the footwork in campaigns without seeking public recognition. The people that offer inspiration to those around them, galvanising collective action. The grassroots revolutionaries.



→ **#ARTXACTIVISM**

NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY ACTIVIST HERO VIA
WWW.SHELBYXSTUDIOS.COM

"WHEN BLACK
WOMEN WIN
VICTORIES, IT IS
A BOOST FOR
VIRTUALLY EVERY
SEGMENT OF
SOCIETY"

- Angela Davis

A big happy birthday to Angela Davis for the 26th January! A remarkable woman in so many ways, she has contributed so much through her political activism, philosophy, writings and teaching.

Reading suggestion: Women, Race and Class.

SO SPECIAL KAY

Sorrow Tears & Blood (Blood on The Flag)

#ENDSARS

So Special Kay returns with a politically charged anthem "Sorrow Tears and Blood", which title borrows from the famous Fela Kuti song of the same name.

It's fitting as the song addresses the issues ongoing in Nigeria, namely the #ENDSARS campaign which has led to various protests worldwide, due to the abuse of young people by police in Nigeria.

So Special Kay also addresses government corruption and police and military brutality, most recently the Lekki Tollgate Massacre where the Nigeria Military opened fire on peaceful unarmed protestors on October 20th 2020.

The song is an Afrofusion combination mixing smooth Alté afrobeat production with gritty dancehall reggae flows, even borrowing Buju Banton's famous "Murderer blood is on your shoulder" hook

With every listen, Sorrow Tears and Blood is bound to evoke powerful emotion but also awaken a spirit of activism that lies dormant within most of us, as we're inspired in song to continue taking a stand against the injustices that effect us all.



WWW.YOUTUBE.COM - SEARCH SO SPECIAL KAY

SISTER

THE FIRST MONTHLY DISCUSSION WITH MY SISTER KEELEY

Grace:

Sings "sister siiiiiister!"

I love that you keep calling this our podcast because we could literally chat for hours. I mean, even deciding what we should talk about for this first issue has taken us ages because there are so many things we could explore.

I wanted this zine to capture the importance of relationships and how they are part of our healing processes, especially sisterhood.

You're the main person I call when I have a question or I'm not sure how to articulate something, so I'm really happy you're doing this with me.

So, you asked the following question, which is gonna help to shape this discussion:

"When you think of dad, what comes to mind?"

Keels:

Thanks for asking me to be a part of the zine. We've talked about trying to write something about dad for a long time and taking part in a writing course recently, with Meres-Sia (@LifeChangingWriting), has given us a much needed push forward. There seem to be certain themes that come up regularly; the way dad parented us, his relationship with mum and how all of that was intertwined with his political and community development work. He really embodied the work he did.

Grace: Yeah. Our family weren't just involved in one off campaigns, but really lived and breathed campaigning, which has obviously impacted how we live our lives.

Feels: Yep, we grew up in a commune in Hackney too, which is different to how most people grow up (*unless they happen to grow up in Hackney in the 80s/90s haha*).

Grace: Yeah, friends were treated like family and we always had a busy house full of people. Also, say for example when dad died, people said to mum "*Oh! Not my Brad*" which I think really shows the level of connection he had with people.

Feels:

There's something about communal living and community that comes out a lot in our discussions. I think this comes from the trust in community and relationships that both our parents really instilled in us.

Grace:

Definitely. I think this also links to mum and dad meeting the MOVE family when you guys lived in Philadelphia in the 80s. And that's why I

SISTER

really wanted to talk about both MOVE and Mumia Abu-Jamal in this first issue. MOVE's philosophy and emphasis on the importance of all life really impacted the way I see the world in that we're all part of one system. There's a collective sense of care and respect for nature and all life within it. I think this is a similar ethos to how the adults in our house raised us too.

Feels: I think there's gonna be so many exciting things we can explore in each zine issue. I'm looking forward to discussing radical self-care next month.

Grace: Yes! Me too sis. Maybe Tirana (our other sister) could join one of these chats too?

Spotify Playlist

by Paul Francis

- FRESH FOUR • SMITH AND MIGHTY • SOUL II SOUL •
- THE FAMILY STAND • MUHUAH • NINA SIMONE •
- M-BEAT, GENERAL LEVY • RONI SIZE, REPRAZENT •
- CONGO NATTY, PETER BOUNCER • LEVITICUS •
- M-BEAT, NAZLIN • UK APACHE, SHY FX •
- PUBLIC ENEMY • A GUY CALLED GERALD • 2PAC •
- SHUT UP AND DANCE • GOLDIE • RENEGADE, P.A. •
- LFO • JUNGLE SHIT • ALEX REECE • THE GANJA KRU •
- JUNGLE BROTHERS • MASSIVE ATTACK •

