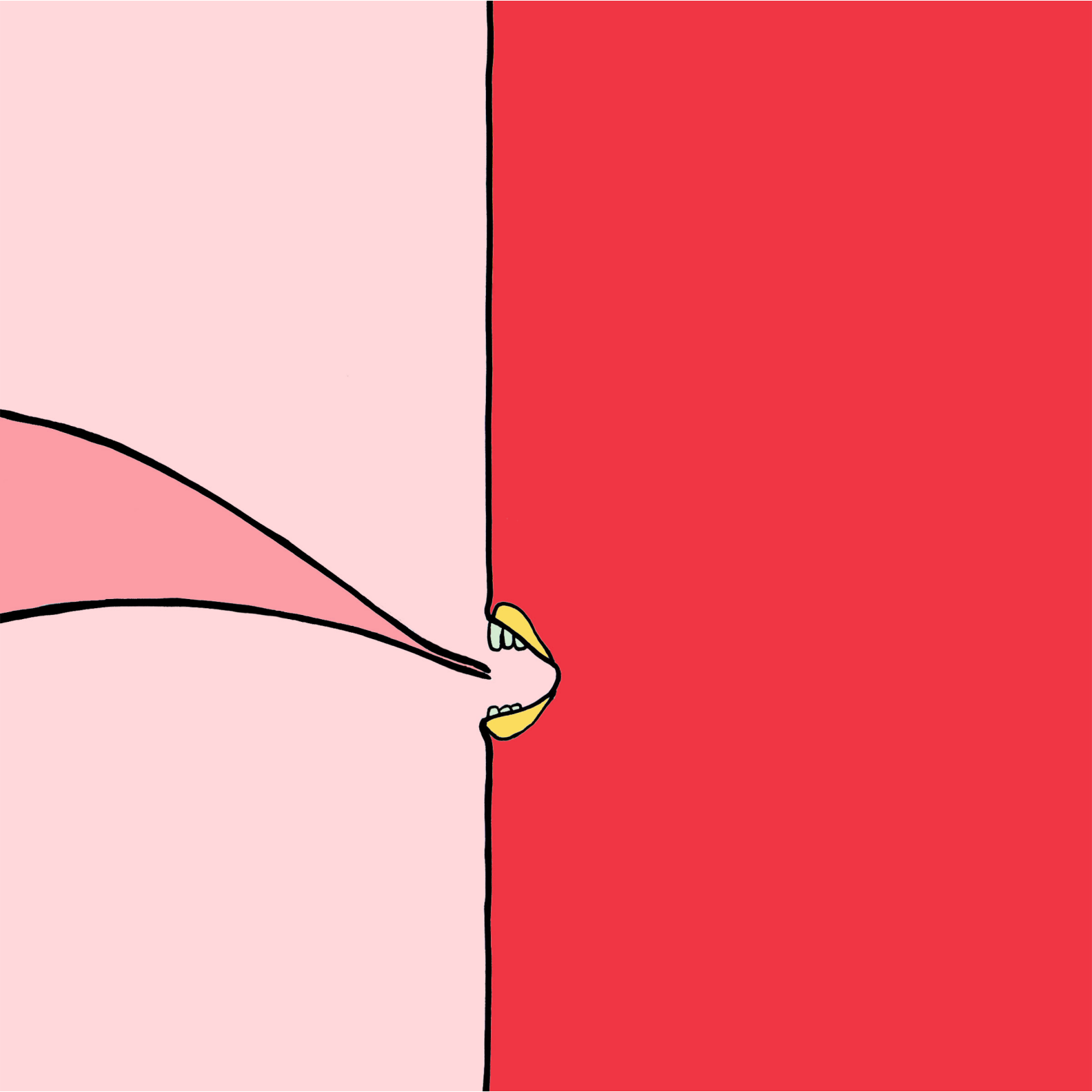




I [CAN] HEAR YOU



I [CAN] HEAR YOU

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INTRODUCTION

This is a document of a collaboration between eighteen performance artists, one professor, and seventeen undergraduate students. Professor Chelsea Couch arranged for each of us to interview one artist, herself the only preexisting link between our small community and theirs. We have recorded not only the artists' generous and thoughtful answers to our questions but also, through our lines of inquiry, our own anxieties and interests as students—some common to us all and others more particular—along with our aesthetic sensibilities. Individually and as a group we are charting our courses, reading our charts; we are learning,

becoming, and glowing in the dark; and we hope that by reading and engaging you can take something of this with you, too.

*

So, you've picked up this book of performance art interviews. Do you know what you've gotten yourself into? Performance art is an elusive and temporal art form which often centers on the body in order to emphasize the relationship between artist and audience. It's marked by live action (or purposeful inaction), unlike more 'traditional' art forms such as painting. What goes into planning a perfor-

mance? How do artists manipulate the relationship between performers and audience to communicate? Learn firsthand from the performance artists featured in this book. The following interviews illustrate a variety of performance art practices dealing with themes ranging from connectivity and identity to sound and censorship. Learn about the artists who pour glue over themselves, lick gallery walls with a cut tongue to leave a faint line of blood, or subject themselves to ten straight hours of reading YouTube comments, all in the name of art. If you have ever been curious about or confused by performance art, hear directly from the creators about the process and practice of this engaging and often strange

art form. What are you waiting for?

*

In class the other day, Chelsea suggested that we name this book 'Made by Art Students, With Grant Money'—a poignant take on the aesthetic choices of young 20-somethings when they get to spend money out of other people's pockets, I must admit. As I'm writing this, we haven't made a final decision in regards to the title, so who fucking knows. That title certainly isn't revealing too much about the contents of this book, because it turns out that encompassing the contents of all the interviews in one succinct title would A) miss some shit and

INTRODUCTION

B) be kind of boring. Oh yeah, that's what this book is—a book of transcribed Skype interviews. And all of these artists do pretty different work. But the one thing that ties all of the artists together is that Chelsea Couch picked them for her students to interview. We thought about doing her birth chart compatibility with each artist, but maybe that would have been going too far.

This is also a book of practice. I don't know about the rest of the students in the class, but I had never interviewed anyone over Skype before. From my end, I don't think it went that well. I was nervous, I stuttered, I couldn't formulate complete sentences, and I think my face just had this completely blank look the entire time.

How embarrassing—to have the opportunity to interview a well-known artist who does cool work and then get too nervous to have an actual conversation. But it was certainly a learning experience, and that's why we're here.

★

Best practices for reading our book might include asking yourself these questions:

Who owns our bodies?

Who inhabits our bodies?

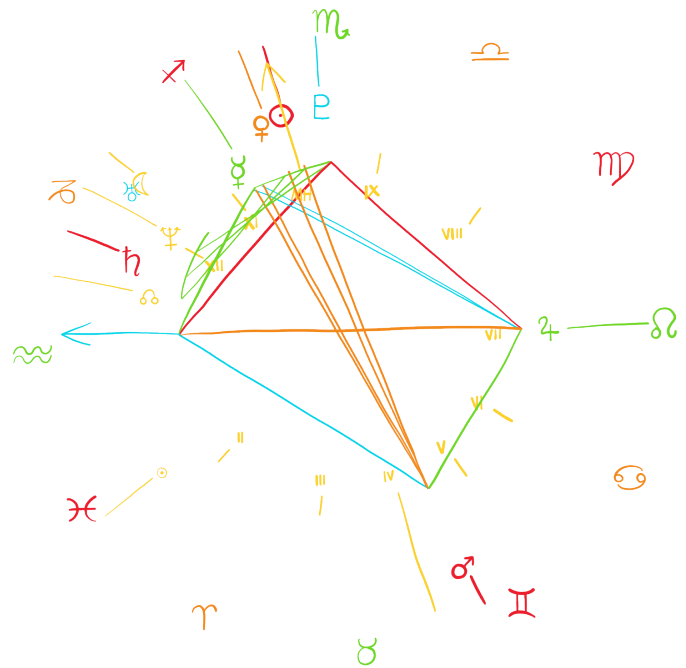
Where do our bodies begin or end?

Best practices for reading our book might also include making the following assumptions:

That our bodies are engendered by a system of power that de-

fines and defies our shape. That performance might—through its ephemerality, unpredictability, vulnerability—gesture towards an escape from the structures that keep our bodies known to some and unknown to ourselves.

The artists interviewed in this series have the radical inclination not only to create with their bodies, but also to invert them, renew them, redo them, inhabit them, heal them, reveal them, and vivisection them. It is our hope that in engaging with their works, as witnesses and as other interplaying bodies, this compilation might become something more than the sum of its components. In the words of one of our featured artists, 'How we talk about the work is the work.'



INTRODUCTION

KELLY NIPPER

in conversation with
CHELSEA COUCH

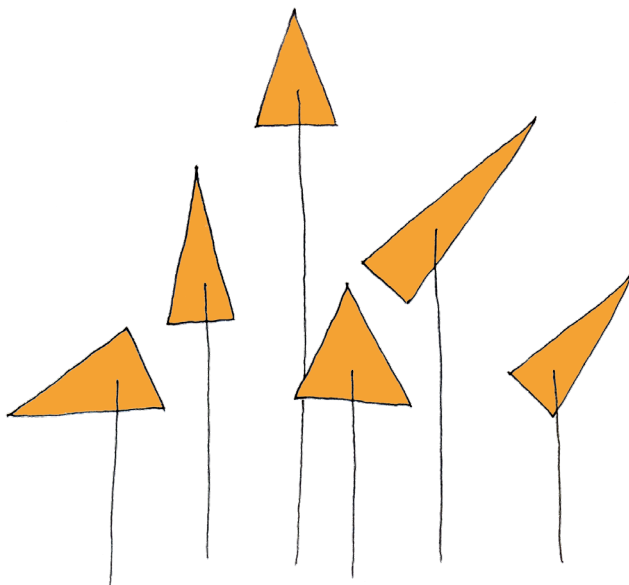


pressing: direct, sustained, & strong
center of gravity
performed with bound flow in space

[INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN REMOVED—PLEASE CONTACT
COUCH.CHELSEA@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION]

MIKE CALWAY-FAGEN

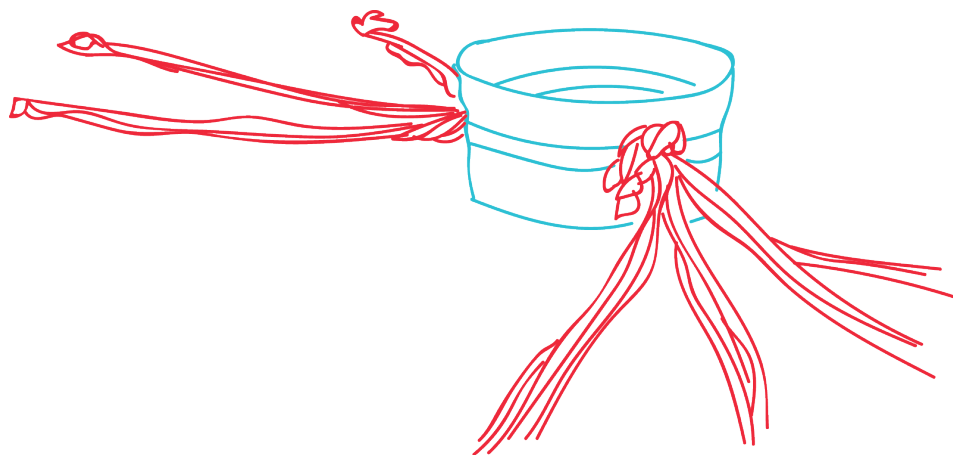
in conversation with
JB BEHAR



Collaboration
Always working together
That's what makes it art

RAE GOODWIN

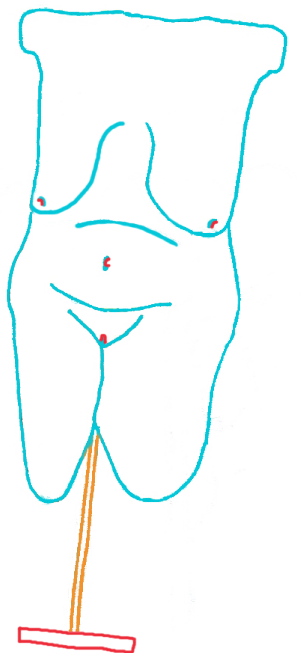
in conversation with
KENDRA GOOD



Buttons, old fabrics,
Revealing ancestry through
Human connection.

KRIS GREY

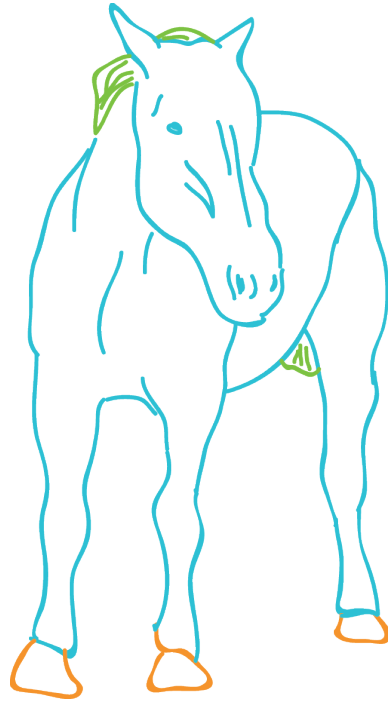
in conversation with
ILIA FORKIN



bodies, boundaries, butt plugs, nb bbs!
our pronouns are we, us, ours,
b/c we're making gender work together : -)

JULIE GROSCHE

in conversation with
ELI KERRY



Re
fuse the new now in
scribe yourself intuit w/o a 2nd thought &/or 5th dimension!

JENNIFER LOCKE

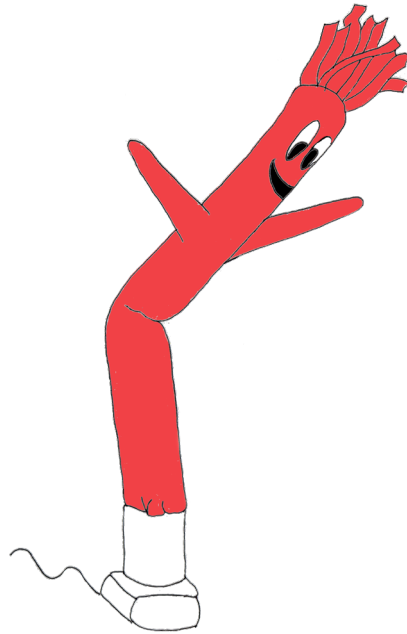
in conversation with
REILLY RESNICK



trapped in the 'torture chamber' of her mind,
locke drains loaded material of its fluids,
covers herself in what is left,
and dares viewers to make meaning out of the remnants

BRIDGET MOSER

in conversation with
MIRANDA MARTIN



humor and nuance
evaluate assumptions
~ about being alive ~

AYANA EVANS

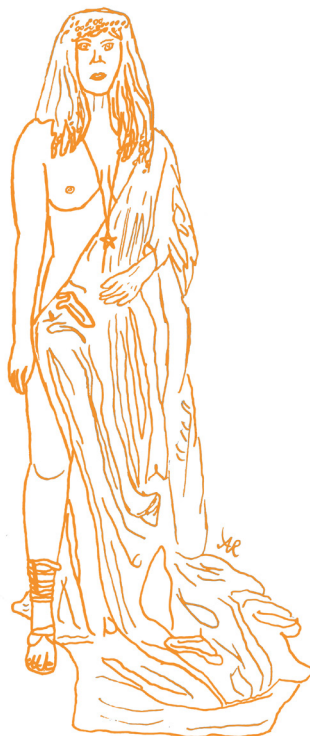
in conversation with
HALEY MACKIE



Painting with bodies
Shifting perception
Trying to find a husband

BETH HEINLY

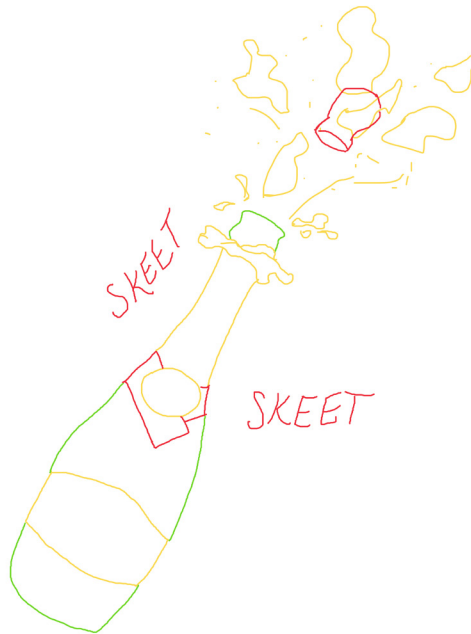
in conversation with
BREANNA DOSS



An auteur comic
Mother of kitten delight
Identity: many

TAMEKA NORRIS

in conversation with
CHLOE LAWTON



Professor of Art,
Performer and Musician,
Skeeter of Champagne.

ANN HIRSCH

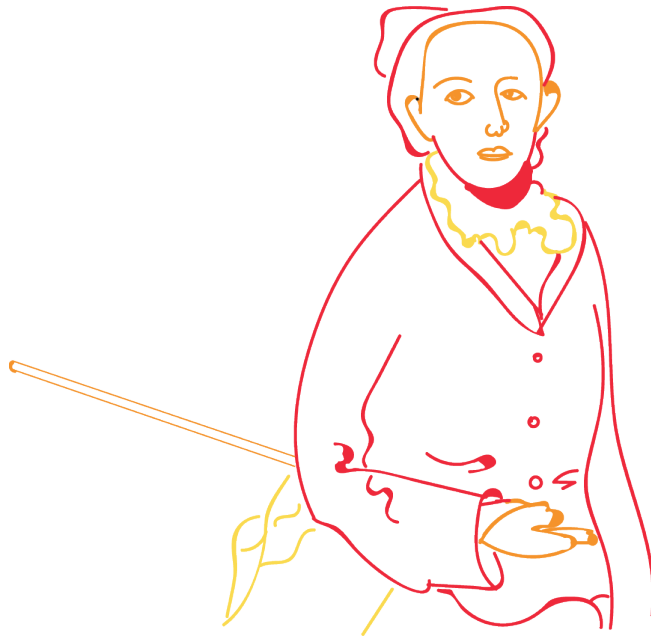
in conversation with
ALAYNA RILEY



"Ann Hirsch is a video and performance artist who examines the influence of technology on popular culture and gender. Her immersive research has included becoming a YouTube camwhore with over two million video views and an appearance as a contestant on *Frank the Entertainer...In a Basement Affair* on Vh1."

ARIANA REINES

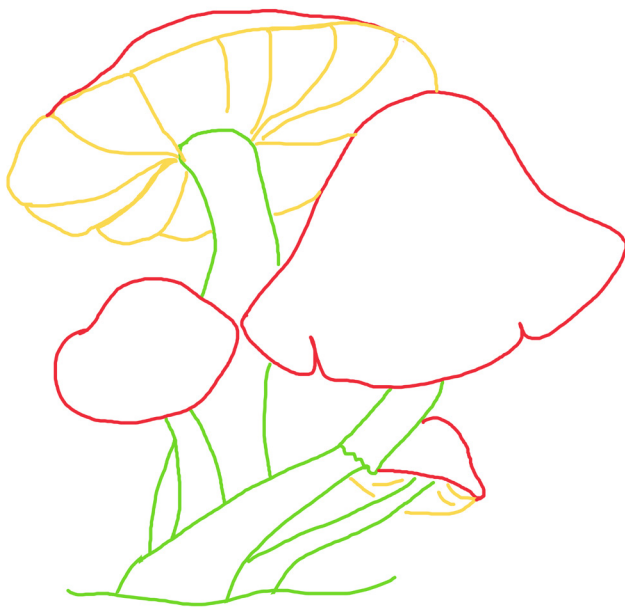
in conversation with
MILES MACCLURE



I'd say more but I don't know what else there is to say, spiders and birth charts can speak for themselves.

DIANE BORSATO

in conversation with
MARIA SALDANA



Working together:
mycologists, chefs, astronomers,
children & beekeepers alike!
Art through taste, touch, smell, meditation.

MOLLY SODA

in conversation with
NASTJA NYKAZA

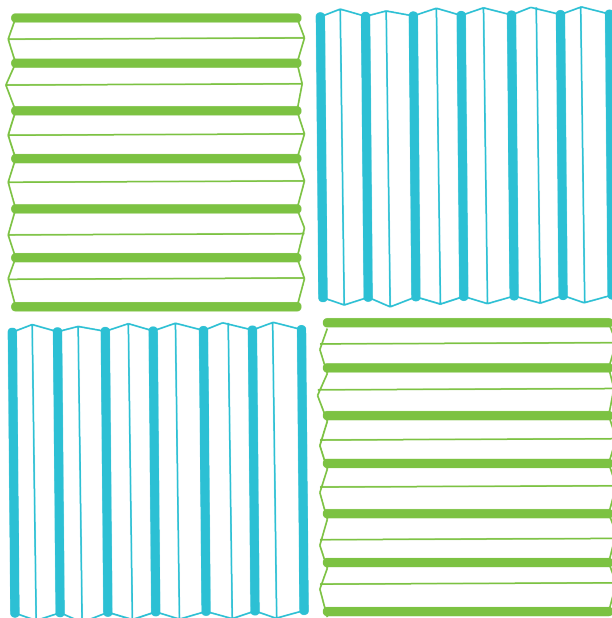


hello r u there?? remember myspace, glitter graphics, and AIM?
I've been following u on tumblr for 5 yrs and could never forget being a t(w)een on
the internet! thank u 4 skyping with me about how to be an adult artist & following
me back on instagram :~]

like comment and subscribe to Molly Soda's archived online life xD

AUDRA WOLOWIEC

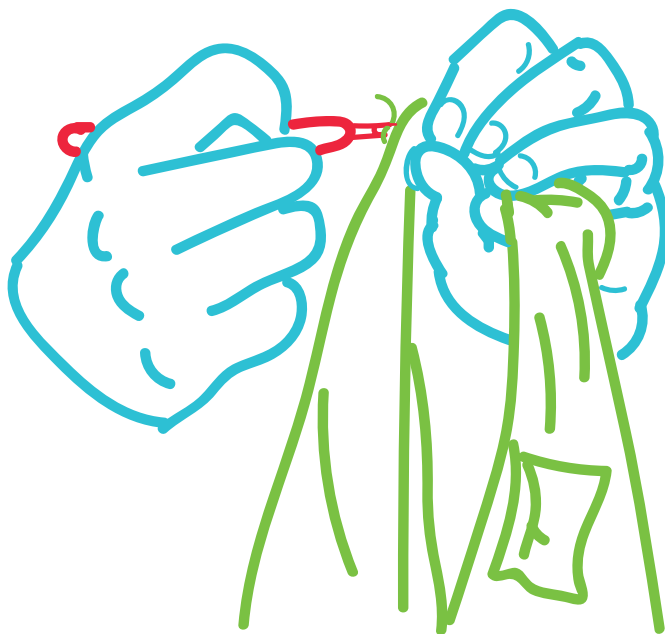
in conversation with
ABIGAIL LAHNERT



de construct
ing lang guage
+ sou nd

ELLEN MUELLER

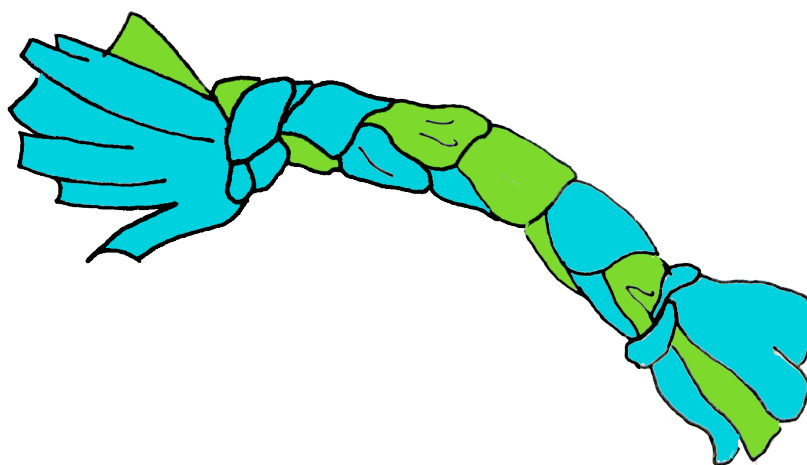
in conversation with
ISABELLE MICHELINI



Babybel cheese, red
wax, international talk.
Your utopia?

NINA SARNELLE

in conversation with
MATT JENSEN



Research, Collect, Inform, Explore

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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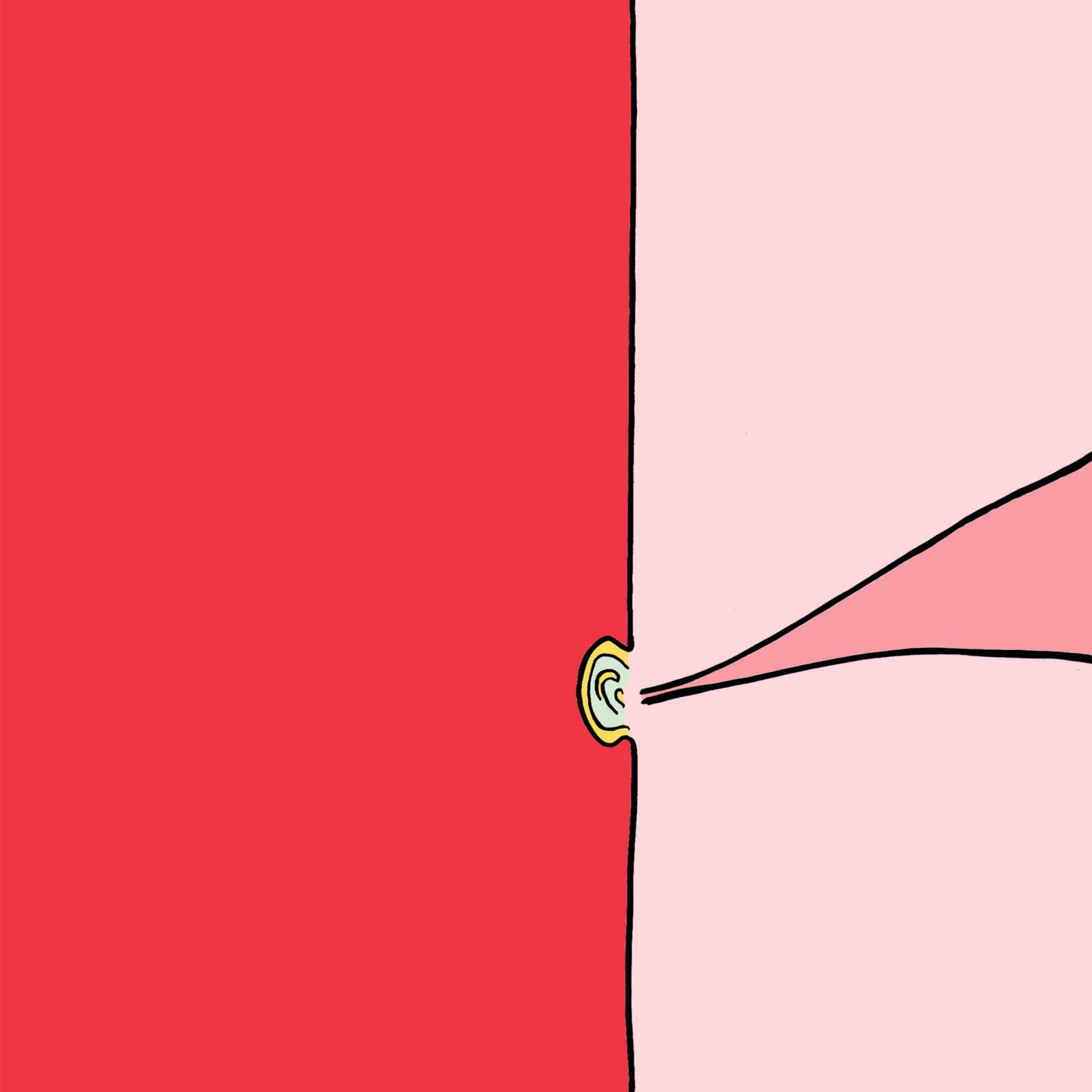
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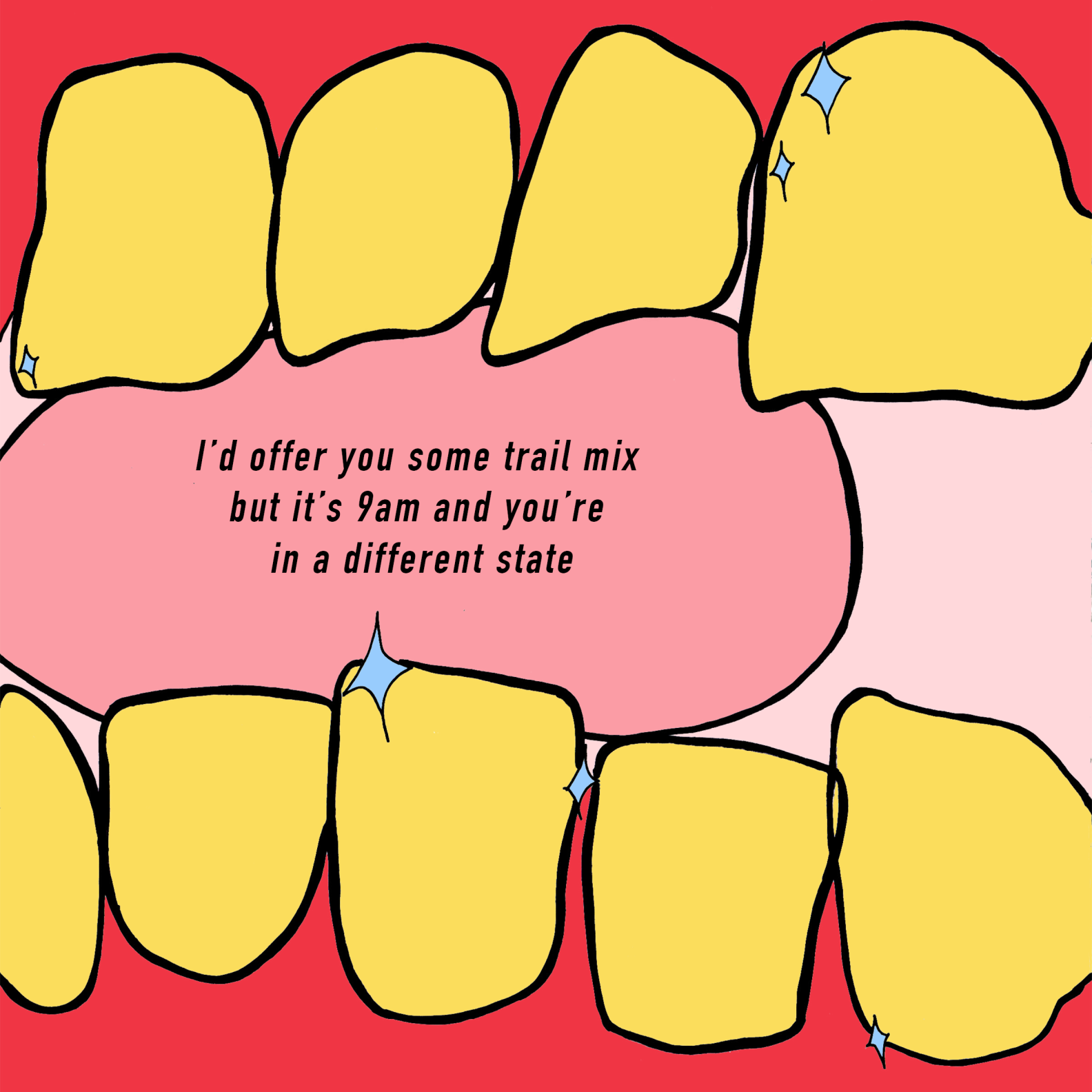
Isabelle Michelini, Maria Saldana, Breanna Doss, Chelsea Couch

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willamette.edu/cla/arts





*I'd offer you some trail mix
but it's 9am and you're
in a different state*