ZOOMING, FLIPPING, ETC. PART 2: TOOLBOX

fall 2020

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Comics & Zines

Majors & minors enrolled: Illustration Design, Motion, and Entertainment Arts; Entertainment Animation and Game Design; Fine Art; Graphics; Transportation; DM minor

Languages spoken: Korean, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia, Cantonese, Taiwanese, French, Russian, Vietnamese, Japanese, English

Time zones: Aside from ArtCenter time, at least four

my goals

The class includes and engages everyone

Design for flexibility of student approach, skills, response, and comfort with platforms Students feel that we're all co-learners Students are doing stuff for most of every class

Texts are important. Texts are made by students

Share contemporary, accessible examples in engaging ways Challenging and varied in idea, concept, platform, form Made by people like them Aspiration, inspiration, AND we could totally make that

Students use writing in authentic and meaningful ways

Change the perceived and the actual audience and the stakes for "turning it in"
Process, conversation, making
In combination with their other skills

Students make things that matter

Frame with ethics, frame with imperatives

Make space for students to try, to choose, to invest

We build, practice, enjoy, benefit, benefit from, and value community

our tools

Google Forms

DotED and Zoom

Starter kit, pre first-day
Link to weekly class, store and access course recordings

Basecamp.com

Course materials, including homework submissions Communication, incl. feedback from all

Perusall.com

Reading and annotation assignments, discussion! "Lectures," modeling, feedback

Mural.co

Homeroom at 2am
Collaborative note-taking

Vimeo.com (paid)

Storage, all set to private, students do not access Embed in Basecamp

Students choose other storage and exchange methods on their own, too

before week I

materials available on DotED

Comics & Zines - 20FA Sec 01

Dashboard / My courses / 20FA-HNAR-223-01-74382

meeting ID 694 405 7930 or link https://artcenter.zoom.us/my/class.with.dalton



Syllabus HERE. Always a work in progress.

Why comics and zines? Watch this: Comic Book Confidential (start viewing at 1:15:25, just Sue Coe's brief interview).

Comics workshops sponsored by The Believer magazine, click here.



A different way to think about making space for community: Shelter in Place Gallery



booktour video: 2014 AC Library zine workshop projects



Booktour video: Former students' comics + zines



BASECAMP, our secondary course site

Expectations for Classroom Conduct

** The focus of this class: Taking care and "Making to Transgress" *; writing, being an editor, community-building, collaboration, curation, dissemination. If you have any questions about course content before committing to the term, please email me so we can discuss.

* Borrowed from name of MICA course taught by Elaine Lopez, Making to Transgress: Risograph Printing as the Practice of Freedom (Spring 2020), which she borrowed from title of a book by bell hooks, Teaching to Transgress (1994).

ArtCenter's (and my) policy regarding classroom conduct:

ArtCenter is committed to maintaining a civil and safe learning environment, free from bias, coercion, and harassment for all. The classroom is a shared environment where all parties are accountable for behavior and contributions to a productive and supportive atmosphere. We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives and are committed to providing a set of conditions for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

before week I

Google Forms survey

free with Gmail, all email addys can respond

What is the name we should call you?

What is the pronoun we should use when referring to you? "No pronoun, please call me by my name" is a legitimate answer here.

Please note: All classes I teach value student knowledge, interests, research, process, and languages. Our classroom is actively anti-racist and anti-misogynist, aims to interrogate and challenge white supremacy, and is an LGBTQ+ Safe Space. Please either type "agree" below, or type your questions or comments regarding this statement.

Do you have any initial questions about the class? Questions or suggestions regarding remote classroom experience, expectations, etiquette?

What time is it for you when it is 9am in Los Angeles?

Is there anything else you'd like me to know about you (general information or anything that might affect the way you are able to engage with this class)? This will stay private.

Soon after you receive this survey, you should also get an email invite from me to "Basecamp" which is our primary course site. Materials and documents are all organized here, and this is where you will submit homework and share work with each other. It's free and mobile-friendly. Please complete the following tasks and check them off as you go.

I've signed in and edited my name to: Name to call me, Surname as on Inside, pronoun.
I have done a brief tour of the "Readings & Resources" area.
I have read the syllabus. (Updated on September 3, so please re-read if needed.)
If you initially signed in from a computer: I have connected my mobile device by clicking on the
circular icon at the top right of the Basecamp page.

Do you have any initial questions about Basecamp, course materials, or the syllabus?

before week I

Google Forms survey

We will be working together to read and annotate assigned readings on https://app.perusall.com. Please go to this site and create an account with your ArtCenter email address. Then click on "Enroll in course" and use this code: DALTON-77YJF

- ☐ I have created an account and signed in to our class.
- I have done a brief tour of the site and figured out how to navigate/use it.

Do you have any initial questions about Perusall, or what you will be expected to do when I assign reading/annotation on this site?

My Zoom meeting ID and link will be the same every week. They they are listed at the top of our DotED page, the syllabus, and our Basecamp page. I will create a DotED zoom link each week to our class meeting, but you don't have to actually go to DotED to get to class—you can just open Zoom and sign in with the meeting ID, or use the web address in any browser, at 9am on Fridays.

Recordings of class, however, can only be saved to and accessed from DotED. I will expect you to watch the recording of class for the weeks you are absent. Please check at least two of the boxes below.

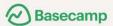
- ☐ I understand and have noted that there are multiple ways I can get to Zoom class each week.
- ☐ I understand how to access a class recording through DotEd if I am absent or want to review.
- Actually, I don't understand how to access a class recording, can we go over this?

Almost done! Do you have any questions for me, about the class or whatever?

Last task, brief preparation for our first day: What is your "ethics of making"? (This isn't an official term, so you get to figure out what it means to you.) Please type a brief answer below. ALSO: Choose two different kinds of objects (like a book and a painting, or a comic and an installation, etc.), made by other people, that help you connect with, explain, talk through your own ethics of making. Take a screenshot or photo of each and post here Ethics of Making Class Gallery by the time class starts on our first day. Be ready to discuss!

Basecamp.com

Free education account available by request, free to invited users

















Comics and Zines 20FA

meeting ID 694 405 7930 or link https://artcenter.zoom.us/my/class.with.dalton

























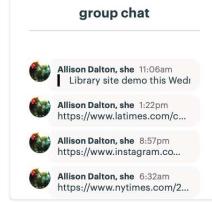


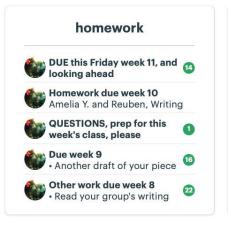
















Basecamp.com features

Visually simple, doesn't look "academic," navigation by clicking on the thing itself

Mobile app is very functional

Each class is a project, invite students just to their specific project, can be archived

Has a template feature where you can save the whole skeleton of each class you teach frequently, you don't have to rebuild every term. Also has move/copy features across projects

Thread-based posting that puts most recent message at top, most recent comment at end

Every student comment is labeled with avatar, name, time

Media-rich format, easy to attach and embed (drag and drop!), space for caption built in to any image attachment.

Can hold multi-page documents and expand to read the whole thing on screen, no downloads needed

Can set who is notified on each post (for example, if students turn something in late, they can choose to notify you so you know it's there)

Public/low-stakes homework submission, everyone sees everyone else's work. Can also be a bit more private depending on type of file posted

Basecamp.com features

Multiple ways to interact with each other:

- Group chat
- Anyone can **ping** (like texting without sharing personal contact info). Students can ping you to ask questions (very useful for those out of the country). Can attach files, good quick way to share. Students have a way to directly contact each other, in case they're collaborating etc.
- Anyone can post **boosts** for anyone else... good for quick feedback and community

Calendar feature that can be imported into all standard calendar apps.

- Student meeting hours listed there
- Major assignments
- Can attach specific students to a particular assignment, can link to assignment description, etc.

View can be sorted by **activity**, so you can look back through everything a student has done within the project, on a timeline.

LIMITATIONS

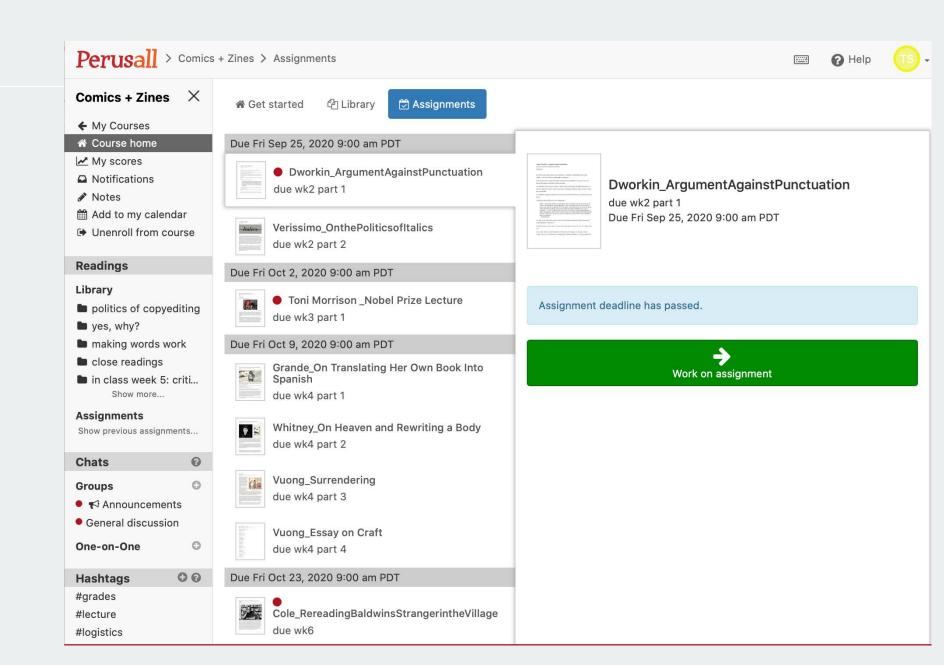
No places for faculty to "hide" things you have coming up but don't want to share with students yet. I save week-to-week assignment postings in a text document on my computer, copy, paste, edit each week as needed.

Basecamp does not allow students to "work together" in a virtual space synchronously. This is where Mural comes in.

Students can access all types of files to use as course material, but there is no structure for helping them to interact with it, how to do it well/comprehensively, or way of measuring whether they do interact. This is where Perusall comes in.

Perusall.com

Free education account, free to invited users with code



Perusall.com features

Build a class library of texts that can include pdfs (all text, or text/image, or all image), videos, links to podcasts. Perusall offers access to 20,000+ academic texts you can assign and students purchase

Organize an assignment so different students are responsible for different parts, share the reading work

Students make meaning of the texts together, can answer each others' questions, indicate that they have the same question, upvote comments that help them understand the text, direct message each other in response

Students are able to demonstrate connections to previous course material, their own knowledge, etc.

Low-stakes leads to real participation (this is way easier than speaking up in class while everyone's watching).

Faculty can see where students are having trouble understanding and be prepared to discuss those things in class, or answer the questions by post or message before class.

Comments can be media-rich: include links, images etc. This allows faculty to conduct mini-lectures as part of reading annotation exchange

Many different settings and views to evaluate student participation. Includes automatic grading based on perameters you set (but not integrated with DotED, so it's more helpful as an overview)

Here's a doc of the exchange I was most inspired by

Perusall.com features

Message to students when they sign up (can be edited/personalized):

Perusall helps you learn faster by collaboratively annotating the readings and communicating with your classmates. Collaboration gets you help whenever you need it, makes learning more fun, enables you to help others (which research shows is also a great way for you to learn), and helps the instructor make class better by emphasizing information that you need.

If you have a question or information to share about a passage in the readings, highlight the text and type in a comment as an annotation. You can also respond to a classmate's annotation in threads (Facebook style) in real time or upvote questions you find helpful. Good annotations contribute to the class by stimulating discussion, explaining your thought processes, helping others, and drawing attention to good points. If a particular classmate's point is relevant, you can explicitly "mention" them and they will be immediately notified, even if not presently signed on.

Research shows that the following behaviors on Perusall predict higher end-of-semester grades and long term mastery of the subject. Your instructor may use some or all to determine your formal score.

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments to the class discussion, spread throughout the entire reading (see some examples)
- Starting the reading early
- Breaking the reading into chunks (instead of trying to do it all at once)
- Reading all the way to the end of the assigned reading
- Posing thoughtful questions and comments that elicit responses from classmates
- Answering questions from others
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful answers

Perusall.com features

LIMITATIONS

Not as friendly visually, overwhelming to some students.

- There is an optional "student view" so you can check to make sure everything is as clear as possible for them
- The site offers a mini-tour, but some didn't find it very helpful
- Maybe make a short screen-capture video that shows students the tools you expect them to use

Some students out of the country were not able to access documents through links. I solved this by including the same materials on Basecamp. There, they could view/read but not annotate, and may have felt a bit left out of the remote discussion.

Some students out of the country were not able to access videos and podcasts through links. No students used annotation while watching videos or listening to podcasts. I'm not sure it's worth it to include these types of course materials on Perusall, and will likely just embed in Basecamp in the future.

Mural.co why?

Initial request to my TA (she's a self-identified web platform novice, which was perfect for our purposes):

We're looking for a platform that will offer a lot of options for adding different media and notes (handwriting and drawing would be great), but that is also easy to use and free for everyone. Here are some of the possibilities:

- A Google Doc or some kind of Google spreadsheet
- https://www.mural.co
- https://www.figma.com (Elaine shared this tweet, which is why we started thinking about doing this)
- A Zoom whiteboard (not a lot of area, though?)
- https://www.bluescape.com
- https://prezi.com

Simone, Elaine, and I are not as comfortable navigating these spaces and tools as we imagine students are, so we're not sure we'll make the best choice. But we also don't want anyone to feel they -can't- use it because it's too complicated.

After she chose Mural, she made a short video tour specific to the needs of our class

Mural.co features

SIGNUP NOTE: Free for teachers, can invite up to 100 active members who access for free as well.

HOWEVER, I couldn't find a way to request this at the outset. I signed up for a free trial, then purchased a single membership for a year, then was identifed as an academic from my email address **by a bot**, and asked if I wanted to convert. Once converted everything was the same, I was refunded.

Like a classroom whiteboard, and the teacher is out of the room. Or even in the room—it just feels like the least regulated, most actively shared space they have.

Media-rich, chat feature, synchronous (can see each other's avatars moving around as they work), can leave comments on each other's work.

(MY) LEARNING CURVE NOTE: To help students get comfortable before the week we were going to have guests for collaborative note-taking, I invited them to sign in while I was leading a class discussion. Blank slate meant that some did what I asked, some scribbled all over and made jokes... which was fun/community-building for some students, but overwhelmed/intimidated others.

I suggest plotting out individual and shared space before unleashing them.

Mural.co collaborative notetaking inside/ during class

Free test account for 30 days, unlimited member invites







collaborate across groups









Group 5: Meredith (MICA), Michael, Kat, Jennifer, Becca (ACCD)





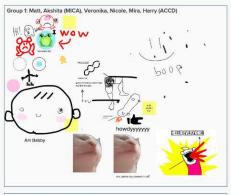




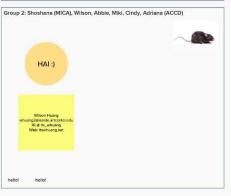








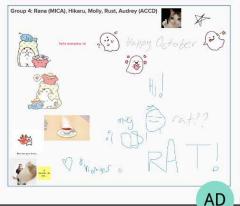


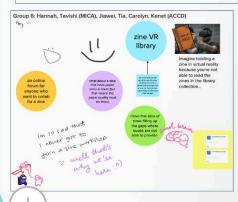










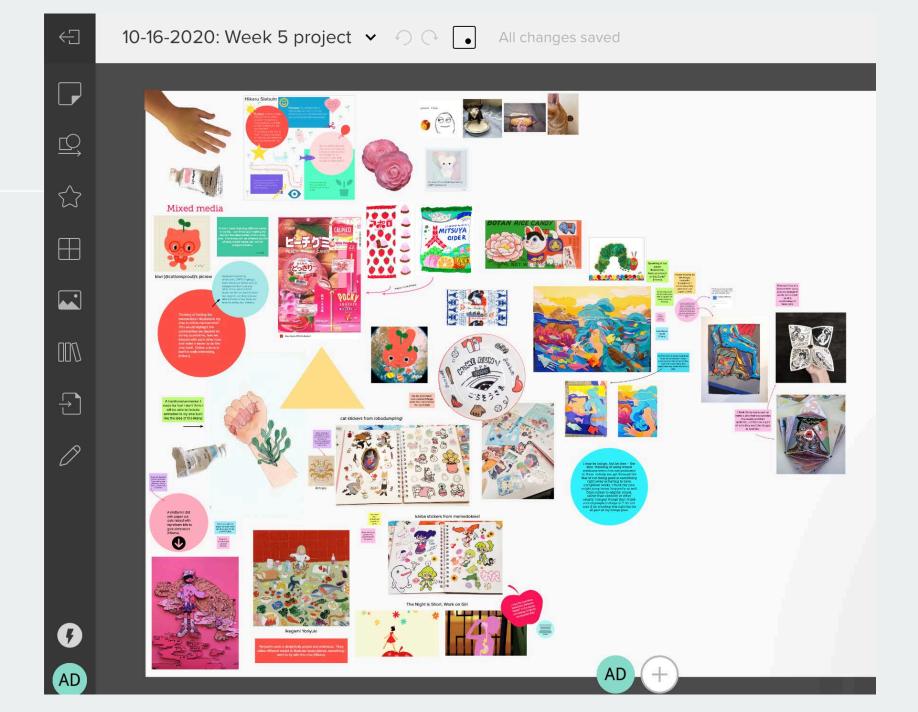






Mural.co student project brainstorm outside of class

Free education account, up to 100 members, wait for the bot



tips & tricks

List zoom personal meeting ID and link everywhere

Link to all platforms used in class on DotED

Use hyperlinks! All over the place! command-K 4ever

Helps students navigate (my organizational logic isn't necessarily theirs) and shows them the way I make connections between material, research, assignments

Ask students to sign up/sign in to each new platform with the same name

Helps me identify everyone, but also helps them recognize each other across platforms

Remind students to use ArtCenter email address on all platforms

tips & tricks

Name all course materials with author name and text title

Consistent naming system for all docs, files, assignments

Make slideshows into research tools! Make two: one for the "inside," one for the "outside"

On the outside copy:

- Annotate, annotate
- Which text, collection, site did it come from
- Hyperlink to origin and related material
- Possibly archive said related material on Basecamp
- · Record notes on the slide, not in notes, to remind students what was discussed

other web-accessible stuff

Edit and save class recordings for future use

I have asked guests (& attending students) if I may re-use their visits as recorded material in future classes, archived edited versions on Vimeo, and saved guest slideshows to share as well

Booktours

Because I can't bring all my beautiful books to class. Made with phone, uploaded to Vimeo, embedded on Basecamp

Tumblr blog as public-facing archive of and directory to student work

Sharing outward is one of Comics & Zines' course outcomes. Student projects, with their permission, are "published online" with InDesign, which generates a page-turn link. Student projects conducted on other plaforms can be linked to as well. We'll all share the tumblr blog address on our own social media when the term is over. accd-comics-n-zines.tumblr.com

ZOOMING, FLIPPING, ETC. PART 2: TOOLBOX

Basecamp, the center of it all

Comics & Zines

Basecamp template for <a>Spring 2021

Introductions

due today

Curating: Pick two images showing your ethics of making, post to Basecamp.com before first day of class

during class

building a shared ethics of making

My "ethics of making" consists of the vow not to do harm. I don't think that everything I make has to have a "greater purpose" or a political motivation, but at a minimum, it needs to not perpetuate or uphold ideologies of inequality. Additionally, it prioritizes respect for source materials, aesthetic traditions, and sources of inspiration.

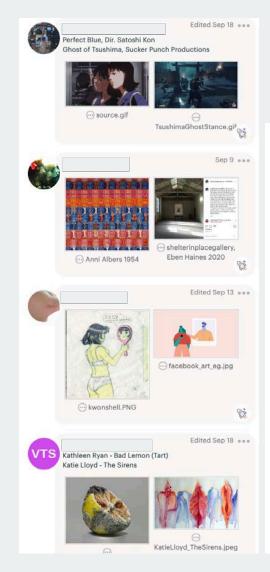
For me, the most important part of creating is being true to myself. One doesn't always have to make art philosophical or political, and it is perfectly reasonable to create for the sake of entertainment, if the creator is not engaged in discussions of this sort. However, for me personaly, I want to focus more on creating for the sake of starting a conversation on topics important to me, such as what is beauty, what is freedom, what it means being a woman.

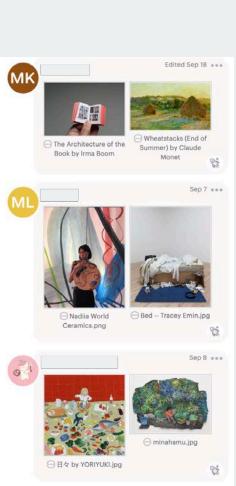
I believe in using materials from every day life whenever possible in my art and giving them new life. I also think working from instinct is a good thing and not getting too caught up in making mistakes.

I think I am still figuring out my "ethics of making", I create based of my interests at the moment. A recurring theme in characters I create often lie around the outsider or the odd, looking to find belonging and connecting. (I hope that's close enough to my ethics of making)

My ethics of making would be the work made as catharsis- a positive act that does no harm to others in any form. I believe artists must uphold a personal ethic of creating in a way that does no harm to others and there should be things we can't forgive in art- artists who promote hatred, misogyny, rape culture, homophobia, transphobia+++ are not welcome in my ethics of making community. We must uphold certain common values.

I think my ethics of making is to create art until I can get the things I want to see and create out of myself, the way I want it to. Right now I feel like there's something preventing me from fully creating like I want to, but I don't feel like creating things important or based from my deep emotions, rather I prefer to make things to distract myself.



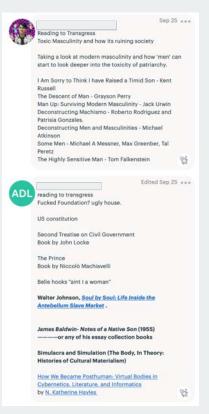


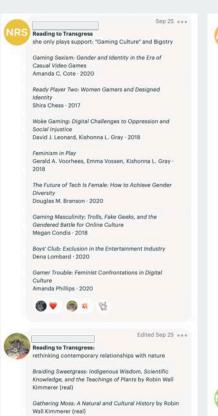


Writing & Reading as Transgression

during class

booklists exercise

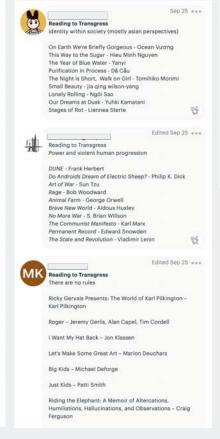


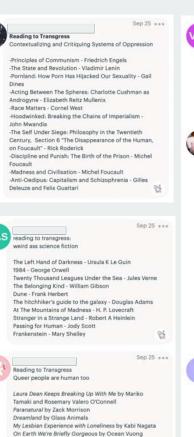


Wilderness as a Colonial Construct by B.G. Ratte (fake)

The Wander Society by Keri Smith (real)





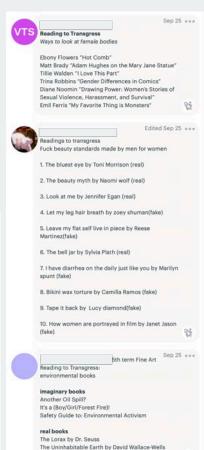


Super Mutant Magic Academy by Jillian Tamaki

85

Our Dreams at Dusk by Yuhki Kamatani

Lot by Bryan Washington Blooming by Ujico Doukyusei by Shoko Nakamura



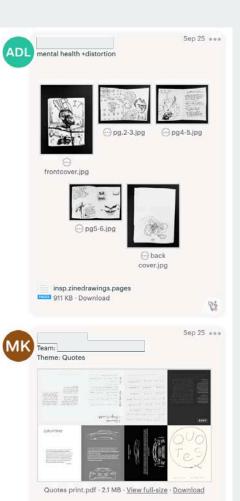
Writing & Reading as Transgression

due today

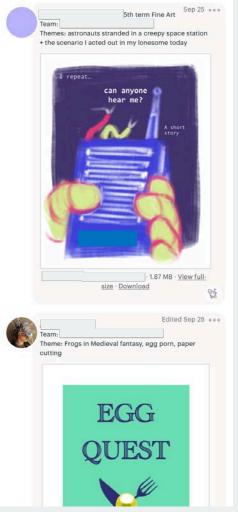
Making: Two-person, two-theme zine







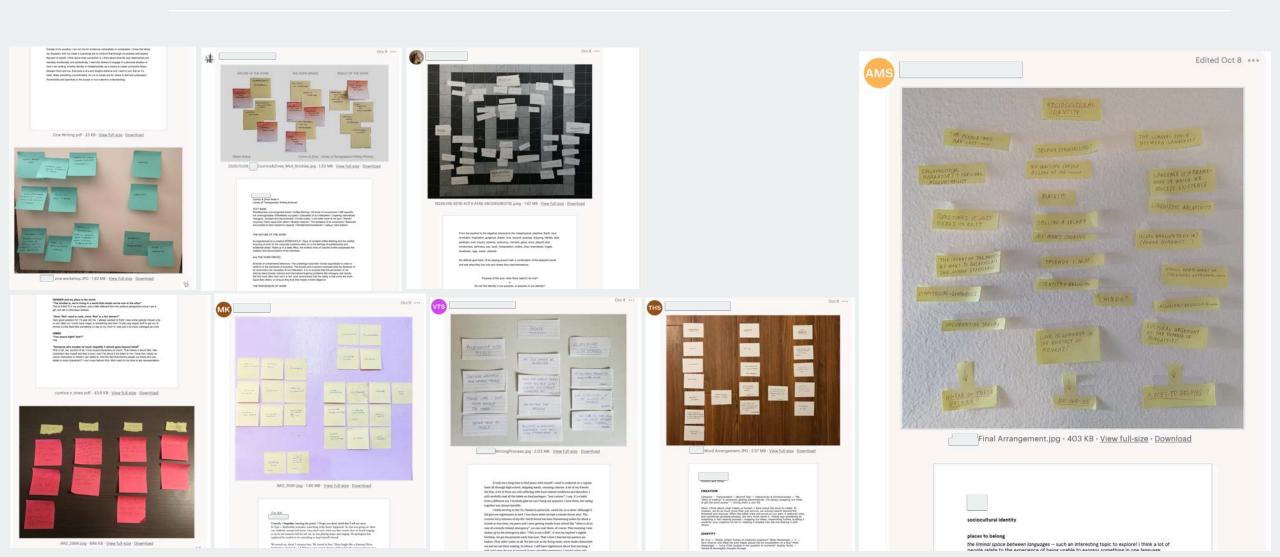




due today

Communities and Knowledges

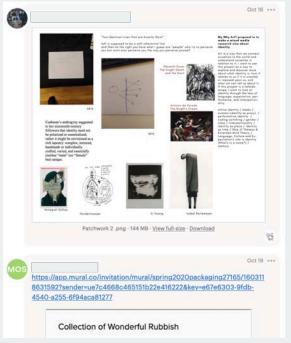
Making: Writing process "zero draft"

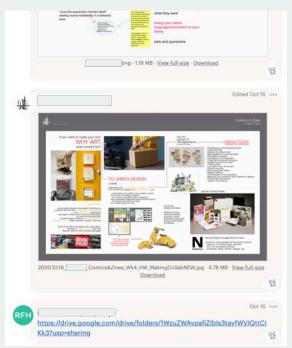


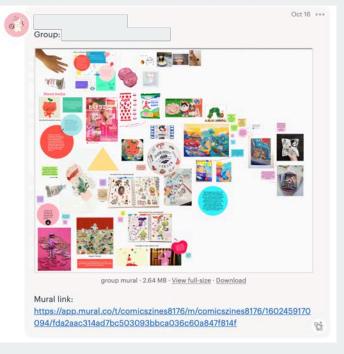
Readings catch-up Collection/Curation/ Documentation/ Reflection

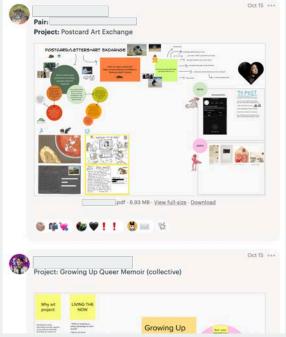
due today

Making: The start of group project, text & image core









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thanks for sticking with me!

questions?