

HOT

QUEER

SUMMER

UNBOUND

ZINE

ISSUE 6

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This zine is best viewed in a pdf reader such as Adobe Acrobat viewing two pages with cover view toggled.

This edition contains images that are NSFW.
Reader discretion advised.

Foreword

Dear Zinesters,

“Hot Queer Summer” is an issue that has been brewing in the UnBound kitchen for most of our first publication year. Our mission has always been to provide a space for womyn, trans, and nonbinary creators to share their works without having to jump through hoops in the cis/AMAB -centric and oversaturated artistic world. This issue is an enduring commitment to uplifting the voices of the marginalized and, yet, I still want our readers to see who is missing from this issue.

While our admin team is a group of folx with diverse backgrounds (including BIPOC such as myself, a black person who created and organized this whole operation), we see a continuous lack of representation in each issue. Part of our commitment to holding space for womyn, trans, and nonbinary creators includes holding space especially for BIPOC. Black and brown women are powerful leaders of the revolution. They are freedom fighters and entrepreneurs, creating more seats at the table and flipping tables that no longer “spark joy”. UnBound won’t let a movement become a moment for our readers.

BIPOC exist in LGBT+ spaces and face intersectional layers of trauma that must be recognized. Black and brown trans women face a staggeringly disproportionate amount of lethal violence and homelessness, directly related to their identities, expressions, and sexualities, as compared to other groups. Black lesbians are objectified, black gay men met with derision and disgust, while black folks existing on a gender spectrum or outside of the concept of gender are considered “confused” or “ill”. Even within circles where BIPOC work to uplift and support other BIPOC, LGBT+ folx still struggle to feel part of the community and part of the movement.

(Let’s be clear, as a queer black person who is perceived as a woman, I can identify the issues of representation in my own community, but white, straight, cis folx absolutely need to feel a sense of duty in how they, as those in power, participate in the oppression and erasure of BIPOC LGBT+ individuals and create strife even within these communities.)

There is no lack of “out” BIPOC LGBT+ creators, artists, writers, etc. Instagram has its algorithms and ads will reach who they reach, but at the end of the day, we have a large responsibility to our community to make sure we aren’t creating a vacuum. Our collaborators and audience skew white. We have existed as a publication for less than a year, but it has been time to analyze our base and find ways to improve our reach. We feel a deep sense of duty to connect with BIPOC and ensure we are making space for the most marginalized voices to be heard.

This issue showcases some truly talented and beautiful creators. See and read their works. Enjoy the world they’ve created for you in these pages and go follow them on social media. Do this while also acknowledging that this is not by any means a full representation of the LGBT+ community and that there are perspectives and experiences that simply aren’t shared here. Together, we will continue to work harder and more intelligently at designing and holding spaces for BIPOC creators.



PRONOUNS: ANY/NONE
executive director

Acknowledgements

The Unbound Team

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Featured Collaborators

- Samantha Tucker
- MJ Damsen
- Kiki - House of Dive
- Kloie James Louise
- Ash Shandling
- Maddie Anne
- Skye Cardoz
- Jessica Smoleroff
- Camila Gallego
- Emi Brener

Special thanks to daisie.com and the Daisie team for connecting collaborators across the globe

About the Art

The issue 6 cover, Quincy the Queer, and the Genitalia Gallerias were created by our team art lead, Lexie Dungan. You can find more of her work on [instagram @L.d.m.a.art](https://www.instagram.com/L.d.m.a.art) Extra graphics created by our publishing lead, Enkfi Saviero.

All other graphics were sourced from Canva.

Astrological Advice to No One In Particular

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19)

Hypothetically, let's say you're my Aries mother—the one who demanded, "ARE YOU A LESBIAN?" when I left my husband for a woman a few summers ago. That angry energy could be put to greater use out in the streets. Your casual meanness, or motivated contempt, would serve an ACAB chant well. Hypothetically.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20)

Please, adopt a shelter pup. Working from home is not going away any time soon. Your untethered loneliness will not be helped by the daily Zoom team-building meetings your boss insists upon (as if we didn't know they're just infantilizing productivity checks). If a puppy feels like too much commitment, get a kitty. They're more independent. Maybe a fish? A houseplant? A Tamogotchi? An Aquarius? Anything to break up the monotony of Excel spreadsheets.

LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22)

Look, Leo, or any Cancer/Leo cusps out there, I just want to say your quarantine mane looks fucking phenomenal. When people ask your secret, tell them it's good genes. If you're feeling particularly gracious, tell them your isolation routine: Don't wash, don't brush, don't trim, don't fret. Don't forget to stage casual photo shoots, and when you post the pics on Instagram, call your bathroom your "office."

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20)

If you were my best friend, Taurus, I'd say to stop beating yourself up about the long bubble baths. I'd say you deserve another Lush Intergalactic bath bomb after successfully begging your family to stop watching Fox News. I'd say, "Look, Janine, your heart is massive and the world is burning—take your time in that tub and catch up on Schitt's Creek. I'll Marco Polo you later."

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22)

Are you there, Cancer? It's me—You. She? Them? Us. Whatever your pronouns, we've cried so much the last six months, we had a W.A.P. long before Cardi and Meg. Stand up, dry the tears off your fanny pack, and start a new gratitude journal. Give thanks for the perfectly tailored masks the Libras made. Be grateful for this long overdue racial uprising, and for political lawn signs that make it easy to spot the most enthusiastic racists.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22)

You've developed Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Virgo. Because there's no way you can workaholic your way through this series of apocalypses. Stop ironing your clothes, stop getting dressed. This is the last thing you'll want to hear, but call your cousin Ronnie (Pisces, empathetic stoner), ask him for a dime bag, fill out several petitions on decriminalizing marijuana, and blaze your way through LGBTQIA TikTok.

LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22)

You would choose a global health crisis as the perfect time to quit smoking. Or start training for a triathlon. Or go vegan. Or start making homemade wine out of a random patch of grapes you found spawning in the field behind your house. If anyone can—I mean, you're a fucking Libra.

Give your 7-Eleven lighters to Virgo. Did Virgo tell you that TikTok is the gayest dating app and Lesbians are cutting slits into their eyebrows now?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22 - DEC 21)

Sagittarius, you did it. You radicalized numerous water signs this season. You are an excellent teacher, mentor, and friendship bracelet weaver. Your next assignment, should you choose to take it, is risky but rewarding. You must infiltrate an Amazon warehouse and start organizing from the inside out. Can I just say, this is a good look for you—forging unions, picking scabs. No one writes better picket line slogans. No one looks sexier holding a clipboard than you do, Archer.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18)

Your radicalization was inevitable. Welcome to the fight. Consider a rose emoji tattoo to commemorate your comradeship. Force people to donate to bail funds on your Facebook birthday announcement. Shave a slit into your eyebrow and then half your head. Dye your armpit hair. Later, quit Facebook.

Sam is an Anti-racist, Anti-Capitalist queer who earned her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from that fucking Buckeye school in 2017. She writes, teaches, and marches in Columbus, Ohio.

Find more of her writing at www.theamericandreamstartshere.com

(spoiler alert, it doesn't).

SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 21)

No other sign could create a strangely functional polyamorous relationship in the middle of a pandemic.

With people they met at a Covid-19 testing site. All of whom have already signed up for a joint Disney+ account, and shared shifts at the local co-op.

Your mullets and pocket hankies look great. Utilitarian, flirty, and thriving.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19)

It's time for some responsible, well-managed protest art. Procure some sidewalk chalk, dark clothes, and a getaway driver. Target the whitest suburbs, the ones full of people who commute to the city but hoard their wealth for their white children's schools. Find every Trump sign'd house there and write any or all of the following on their Fascist-loving sidewalks: PLAGUE 2020 or I HATE WOMEN 2020 or WHITE SUPREMACY 2020.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20)

I know, Pisces, I know. You told the future. The second coming of The L Word, white people using a pandemic as license to erase Black people from the art of roller skating, all-American Fascism, you predicted it all. Your memes have been dank and prophetic. We should have listened. You have any edibles?

Samantha Tucker
SHE/HER

Dear Quincy,

Not even sure if this is a "queer" question, but I am queer and have a question. I have never orgasmed ever. When I have sex with anyone I just can't make it happen and end up faking it. What am I doing wrong?

- *Crying Inside*

Dear Crying Inside,

The big O. My biggest is advice is to understand what sex means to you, and to take steps to be more comfortable in your own sexuality.

Explore your fantasies:

Masturbation is the key here, especially if you haven't had a solo orgasm. In my opinion, it is very difficult to climax with a partner if you haven't reached it on your own yet. Why do I believe this? You need to know what you like, before communicating it to another person. So, watch different genres of porn, invest in toys, buy lingerie that makes you feel sexy. Figure out your own definition of pleasure, so that you know what feels good to you.

Have a conversation with your partner: We as a society, and particularly as women, are conditioned to fake it when we can't climax. We are discouraged from having most conversations about sex. However, communication ultimately leads to better sex, and better orgasms. I used to fake it, because I didn't want my partner to feel self-conscious about their skills in bed. Everyone, however, deserves to know the truth. Tell your partner you haven't had an orgasm, and discuss together how to make sex better for the both of you.

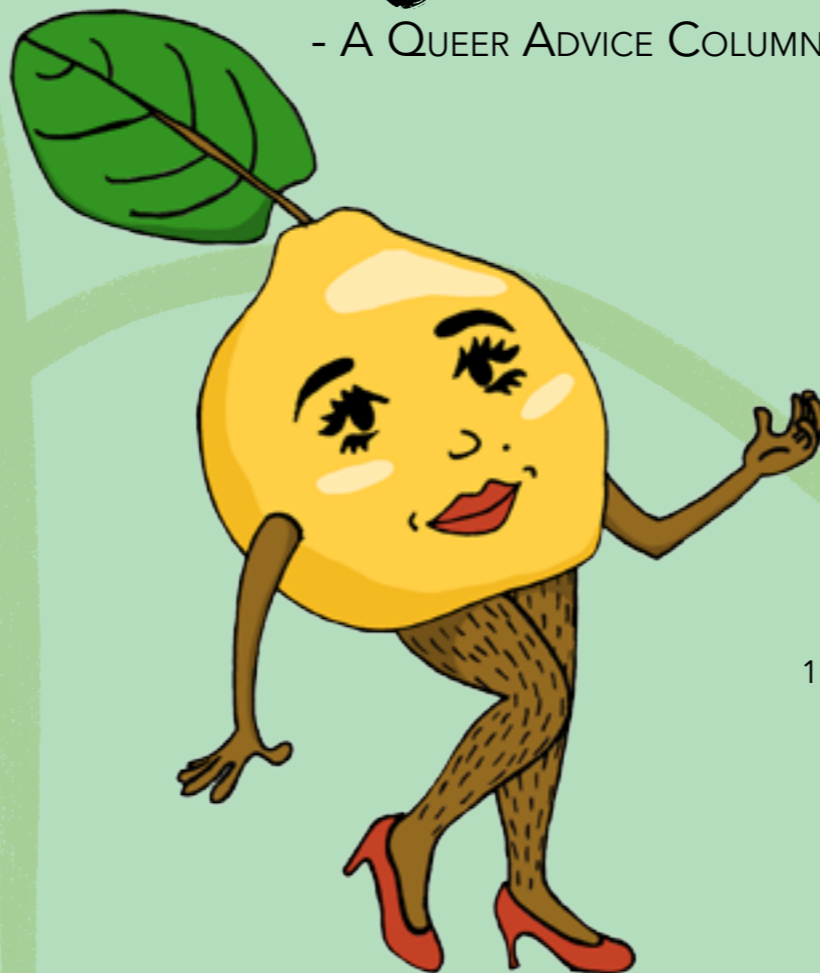
Relax: I get it, it's hard not to think about the big O. Whether it's nervousness, the pressure to perform, or just really really wanting to finish—you'll never get there if you're in your head. Instead, focus on what you're feeling physically during sex.

Be selfish in bed: No I don't mean to completely ignore your partner's desires, but we shouldn't consistently ignore our own either. I used to be an offender of this in particular. I was too scared or too shy to tell my partner what I wanted, so instead I focused on getting them off. Guess how many orgasms I had with that attitude? Almost zero. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want.

We understand that for some people orgasms cannot be achieved due to a number of health disorders, ranging from PTSD, to vaginismus and endometriosis. If you believe this could apply to you, we encourage you to visit an OB/GYN or a licensed mental health professional.

Quincy the Queer

- A QUEER ADVICE COLUMN



Dear Quincy,

I am trans masc and recently broke up with my first and only partner who was cis/AFAB (assigned female at birth). I am definitely gay but never even tried to talk to a guy before and now I am terrified because I keep matching with guys on tinder and don't know how to keep the conversation going. Worse, I don't even know what I would do if I actually went on a date with one of these guys! Help! Any advice appreciated!

- *T.R.*

Dear T.R.,

Welcome to the wonderful world of dating apps! I remember the day 5 years ago that I finally gave in and downloaded tinder. My previous dating experience included one person from high school, and a couple of casual hookups. I was figuring my awkward, quiet self out, and definitely wouldn't say that I was confident in putting myself out there. Suddenly, I was surrounded by people who were interested in me?? Initially, tinder is intimidating and quite literally seems like a virtual jungle. However, with some experience you'll begin to gain confidence in your dating abilities, and more importantly yourself.

Here are my best tinder tips:

1. Dip your toes in at first: if at first you feel uncomfortable making initial moves, then don't. There is nothing wrong with waiting for people to message you first. This gives you a better idea who is really interested in you, and spares you the awkwardness of having to choose a distasteful icebreaker or gif.
2. Limit who you talk to: do not message everyone you match with. This is overwhelming, and can lead to confusion. In the same vein, do not respond to everyone that messages you. My advice is to be choosy, only converse with the matches that make you the most excited.
3. Not sure what to say in an initial message? Review their profile. Connect with people based off of a mutual interest. Or, when in doubt start off with a compliment.
4. Continually check in with yourself on what you are looking to get out of the app, and be clear about your intentions. People on tinder are confusing, period.
5. Do not feel pressured to meet/date people. Sometimes, it's just nice to get to know someone without the pressure of seeing them in person and the implications of that. Tinder is a journey, and there is nothing wrong with learning to connect with people virtually, before you delve into something face to face.
6. The transition to the meetup should feel natural. I like to wait at least a week or two before going on a date. At this point, I personally feel like I've had enough conversation to gauge the person and feel comfortable on a date. You should feel excited and nervous to meet this person, but also ready.
7. Have fun. In my five years on tinder, I've found love, heartbreak, and friendships—and I wouldn't want it any other way. Relax, be yourself, and laugh at the nasty pickup lines. You got this.

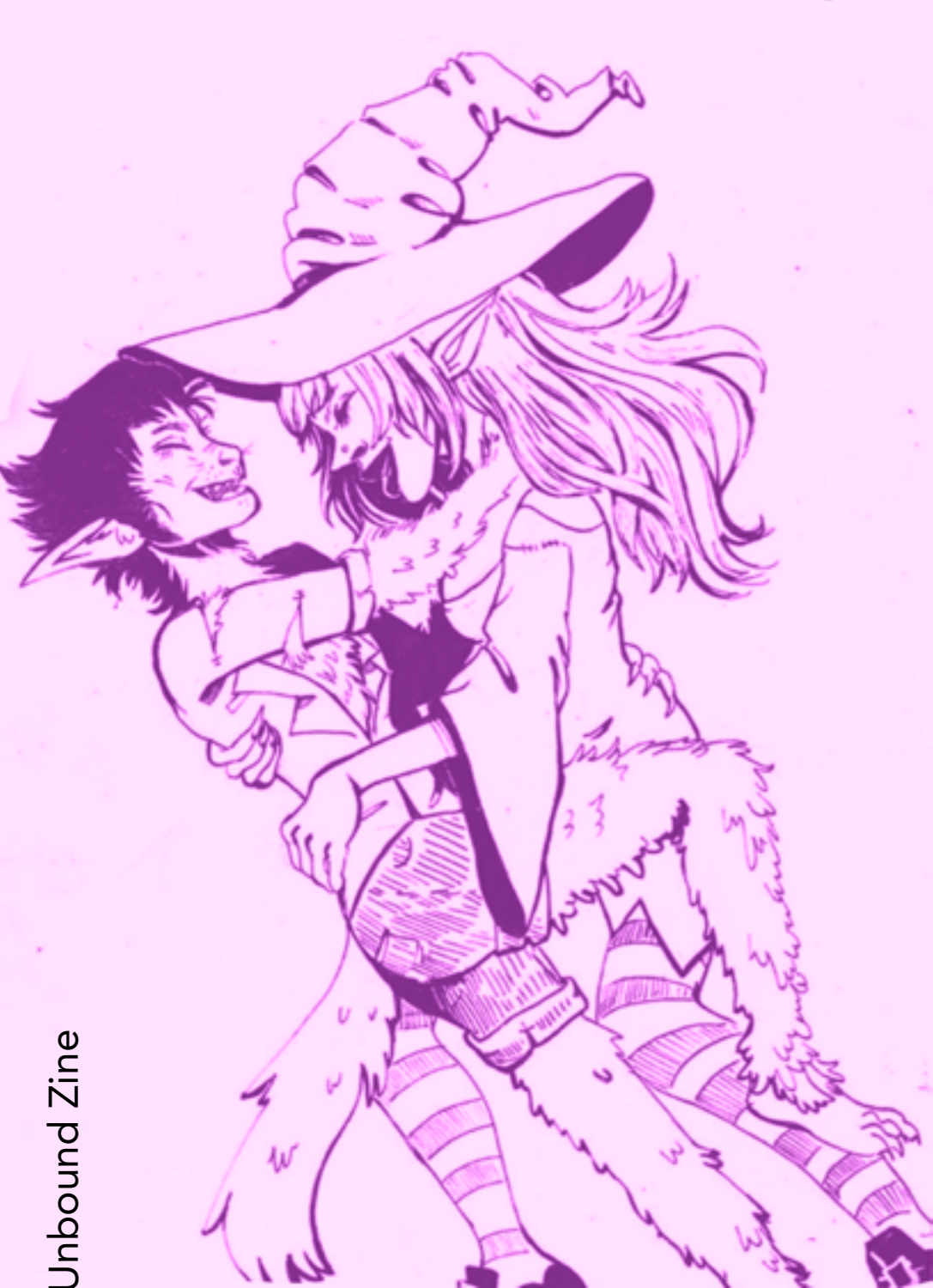
MJ Damsen

THEY/THEM




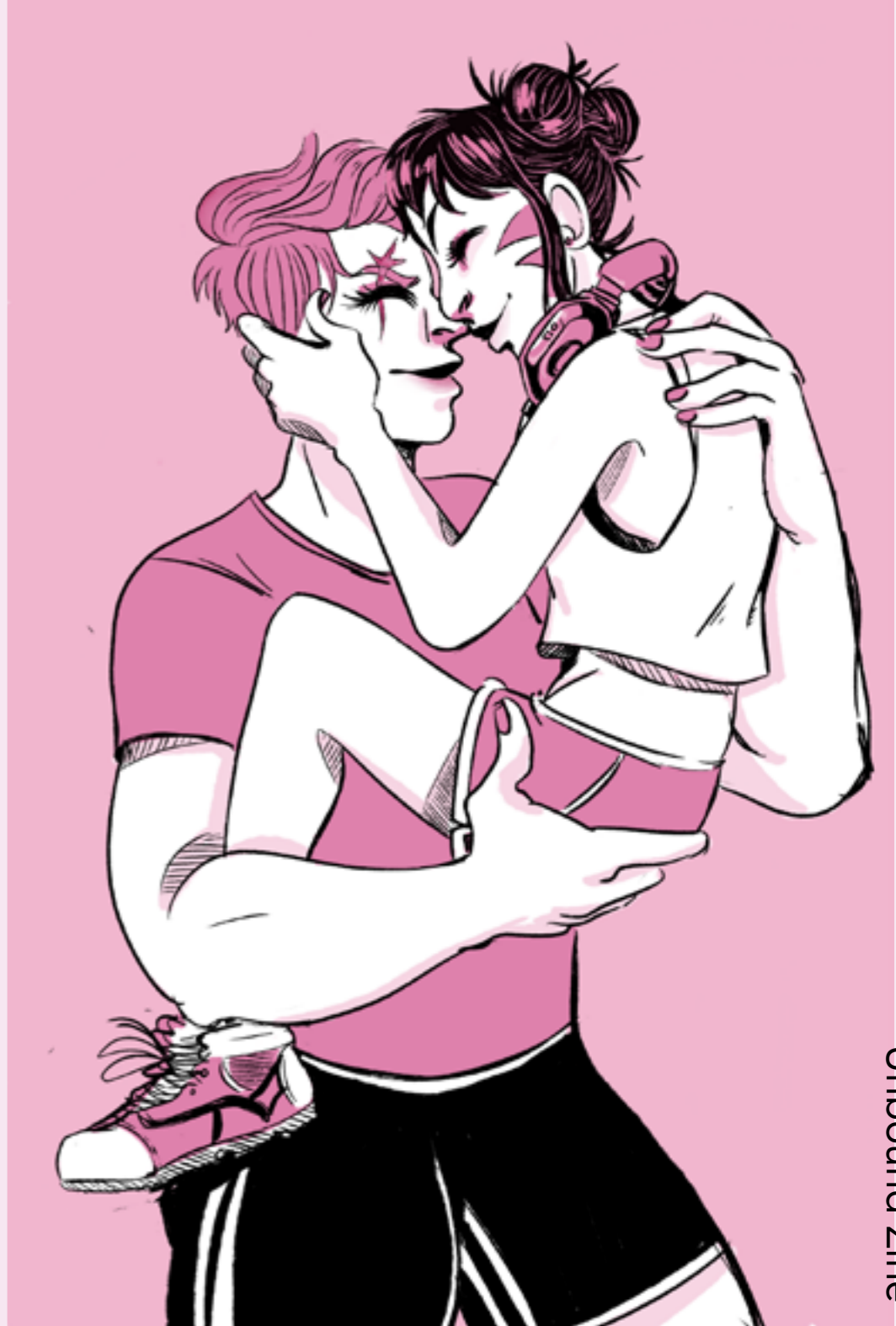
MJ is an illustrator, printmaker, and all around delightfully disgusting orc. They like collages, comics, and collecting evidence of bigfoot. Don't ask to see pictures of their cat. They will trap you for two hours.





MJ Damsen

 @possum.ink
Mdamsen.com



Kiki - House of Dive

The kiki house of DIVE is a ballroom house from Vienna, Austria. Recently popularised by TV—shows like Pose or Legendary, ballroom culture is a haven for the LGBTIQ and people of color. Founded by Mother Karin Cheng in 2019, DIVE brings people from the local ballroom scene together to create a space for support, expression, and empowerment.





We celebrate gender expression, bodies, and dance styles beyond the norms that place being white, thin, straight, and cis on a pedestal. This is especially important to us since a house is not just a 'team' but also a family that comes together to uplift and support each other.

We have regular training sessions and perform at events such as a fundraiser for ZARA, an Austrian anti-racism organization, and queerbase, an organization that supports LGBTQ refugees, as well as other cultural and community events. We also perform at balls and organize ball practice sessions.





KARIN CHENG *Model & House-mother*
 ANNA GABERSCIK *Model*
 MARKO KLAIC *Model*
 KRISTIN JACKSON LERCH *Make-Up artist and Art Director*
 JOSEFIN-MARIE-CHRISTIN STERNBAUER *Photoartist*
 JANA WIELAND *Garments*




@oookarin
 @og_gaber
 @_maky_93_
 @regenbogenfischlein
 @josefin__marie
 @jana_wieland

Recently we have started to create series of photos and videos, combining our creative talents ranging from dance and performance to styling, makeup and photography. To share these projects, we're looking for platforms like unboundzine, that showcase LGBTIQ talent.



Kiki-House of Dive

 @kikihouseof.dive


A Day Off in Bright Moon

Kloie James Louise SHE/HER

Born and raised in Minneapolis, is currently residing in Memphis, TN with her partner and kitty cat Uli.

She has just recently begun illustrating and continues to explore her more illustrative side. Kloie seeks to flood the illustration field with diverse stories of fat, womxn of color.

Kloie Rush-Spratt

 @jameslouiseart



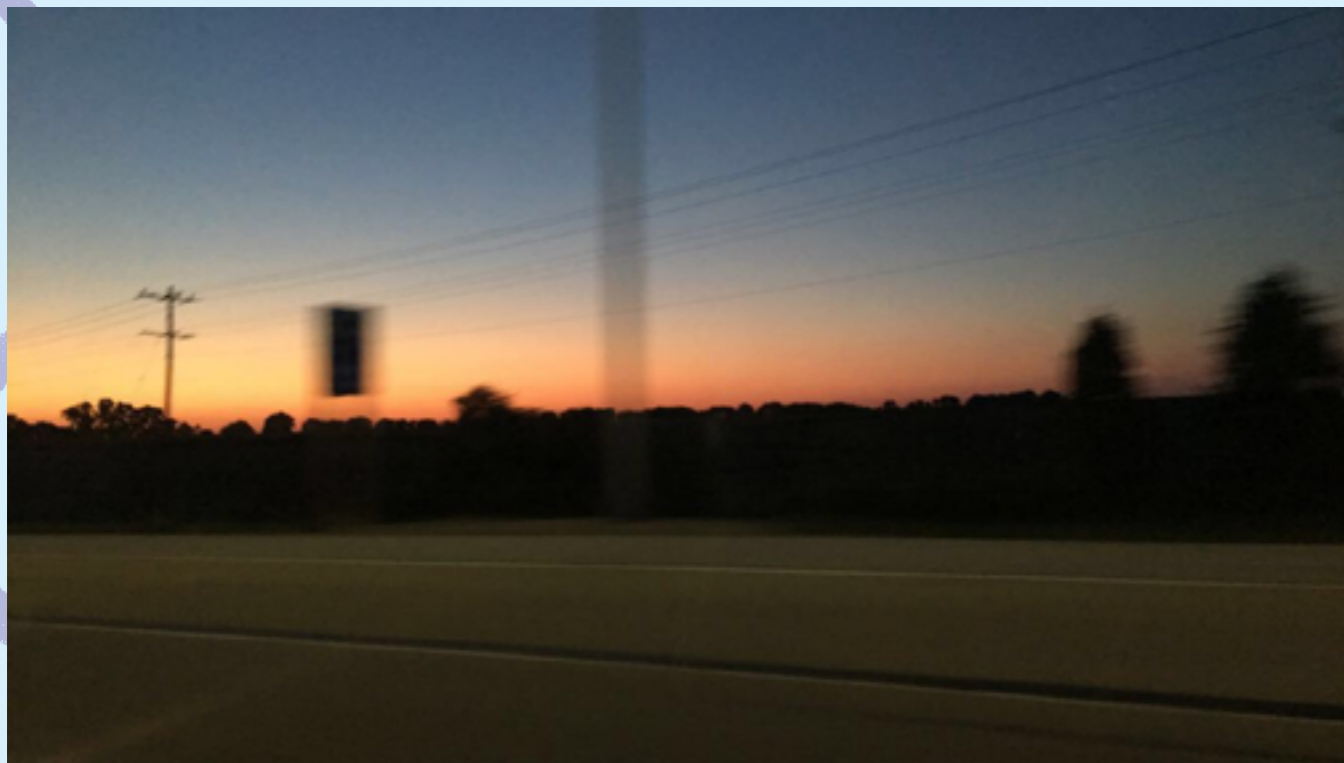
Ash Shandling

THEY/THEM

My name is Ash Shandling, I'm 14 and my sexuality is lesbian. I live in Chicago, Illinois and just enjoy taking pictures of anything that interests me. I'm trying to take a photography class/club in high school so I can get better at it and hopefully become a professional photographer.

Blurry Summer (August 6th, 2020)

I took this on a road trip to Des Moines, Iowa to visit family, this was around 7pm and the sun was just settling down. It's blurry from the movement of the car which I can relate to with how this year has been, blurry and going too fast. This is one of my favorite photos that I have taken this year and I hope you enjoy it.



Dark Summer (July 13, 2019)


I took this photo out of my bedroom window when looking at the sky, the original made the sky pink and orange. So I added the flash which added the purple and the darkness of the trees and houses. I feel like this one I can relate to as well because the summer of 2019 wasn't really fun or exciting but I managed to learn more of myself.



Above and below (May 28, 2019)

I took this photo in Chicago off a balcony when I went to a special occasion with my family and managed to take this through the gate. It was a little risky to take this photo and I managed to do it without hurting myself or losing my phone that I took this photo with. I hope you enjoy this one cause it was dangerous to take it.

Ash Shandling

 @adoringphotography

Yonic Nature


Maddie Anne THEY/SHE

A white queer birth worker, creator and educator from central MA. Their work centers growth, autonomy, and queerness across multiple mediums including poetry, instrumental music, visual art and interactive work. Maddie draws inspiration for their creative projects and life as a doula from the transformative possibilities of an empowered birth/life/death experience.



These photos are part of a project launched on Instagram earlier this summer that highlights stunning yonic nature through photographs. Please feel free to follow @yonicnature for more content. I love to collaborate with other queer people so please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to connect! My main Instagram is @maddiemclydick.

Maddie Anne

 @yonicnature
@maddiemclydick

Metro Journeys

If I had the chance
To go back in time
To hold your hand
To kiss your face
I would

And I would do it without fear
I wouldn't tell them you're a friend
I would tell them
that I fell in love with your eyebrows
And your smile
I'd do this without fear

As we stood a person apart from each other
The only two women in this metro
I'd ask you your name
Tell you you're beautiful
Maybe I wouldn't have a chance
And I'd walk away

Skye Cardoz is a bisexual writer who writes articles, stories, and poems, mostly on love and mental-health. She has had an article published in Thought Catalog and has self-published a short story on Kindle. She loves exploring topics on love and its elements (whether it be heartbreak or little wins) throughout her work. She lives in Mumbai, India with her family and pet plants.



Jessica Smoleroff

Jessica Smoleroff is a working artist and educator based out of the panhandle of Florida. Smoleroff completed her MFA in 2019 at Florida State University, where she continues to teach painting and drawing at the university and local level.

Self dubbed, "extremely nsfw", the softcore exhibitionism in her paintings represent the Internet as an echoing howl in the dark. For the future, Smoleroff is exploring representations of sexuality through painting to address the ways in which oppressive forces have weaponized sex marginalized populations.



If masculine figures were represented as soft, beautiful, and gentle we would have fewer wars. In films, erect penises have more severe ratings than flaccid ones.

In the paintings, the men (and their erections) are adorned with cascading, enveloping, and embracing flowers. The flowers were taken from curated gardens, evidence of stir-crazed social isolationists seeking their own form of self-healing.



The four paintings, selected from a series of twelve, represent nude images of men from the Internet. Their images are sometimes ads for their onlyfans, or simply small, bespoke calls for attention, validation.

Jessica Smoleroff
@jsmoleroff
www.jsmoleroff.com

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

This particular piece takes on the figure of Saint Catherine of Alexandria and her martyrdom, and is part of a series of illustrations exploring the role of patriarchy in the shaping of female archetypes.



Camila Gallego (SHE/HER)

A Colombian art historian and illustrator. Her work takes on traditional drawing and painting media while exploring archetypes, mythologies, power systems and themes loaded with references to pop culture and colonial art.

Camila Gallego



@camilagallegosilva

www.camilagallego.com

Emi Brener

THEY/THEM,



Princess

Oil and Embroidery on canvas
60x60cm
2019

Inspired by borrowed thoughts and emotions, Brener looks to expose the vulnerability of the human experience through the meshing of written language and art, while also highlighting the way we use our bodies to interact with one another in many different ways. The results are paintings that often depict fragments of the human figure, never showing the entire body and some even applying a distorted close-up viewpoint, further deepening the work's sense of intimacy.



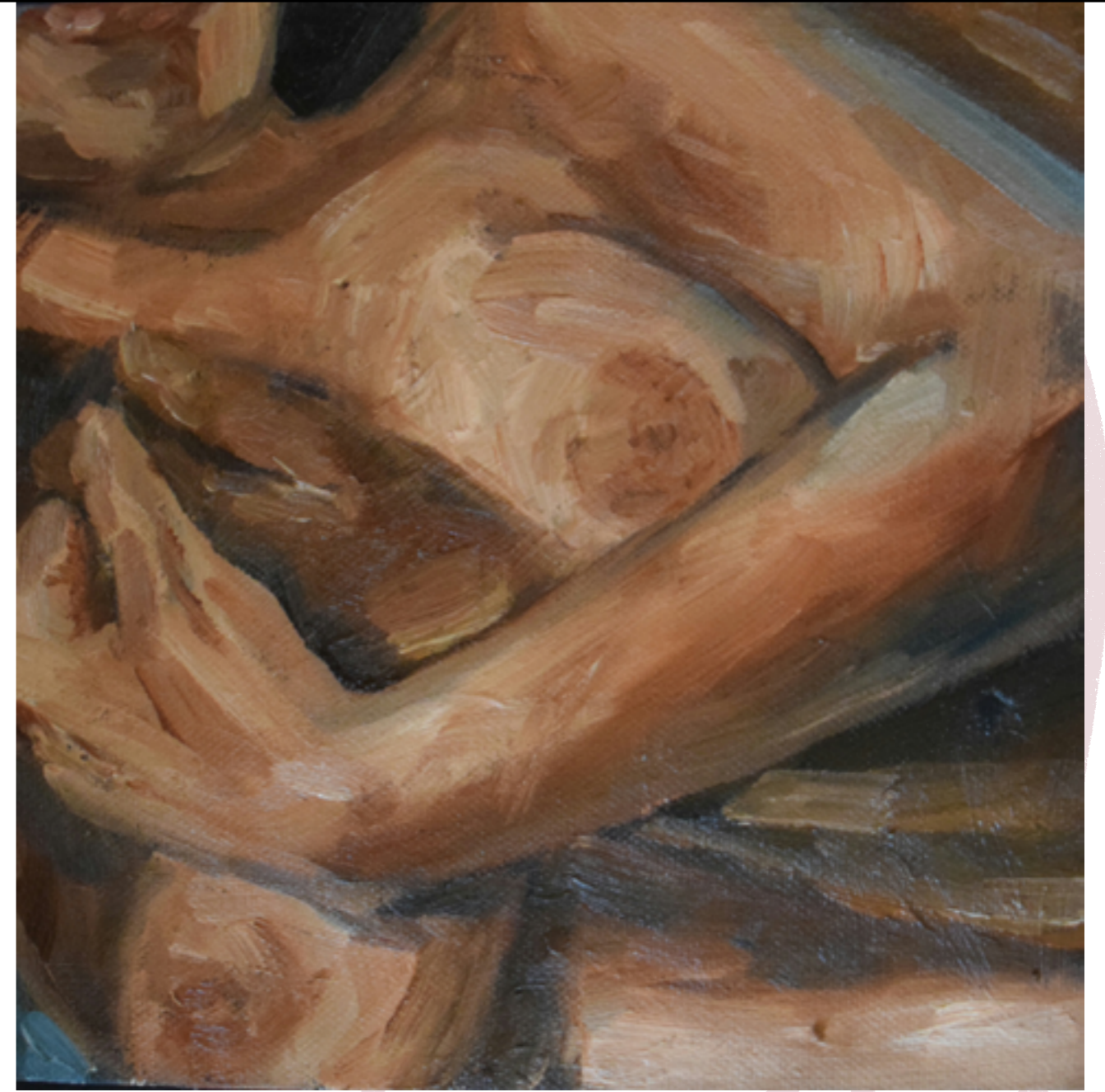
The way skin and flesh play an important part in our lives is shown in artworks that display text as seemingly carved or burnt into the skin; representing how our emotional scars can manifest themselves physically, and exposing the psychology behind the surface.

Also I am very gay and like to paint other queer people. Mostly that.



Red Thread, Oil and Embroidery on canvas,
60x60cm, 2019.

Us
Oil on canvas
30x30cm
2019

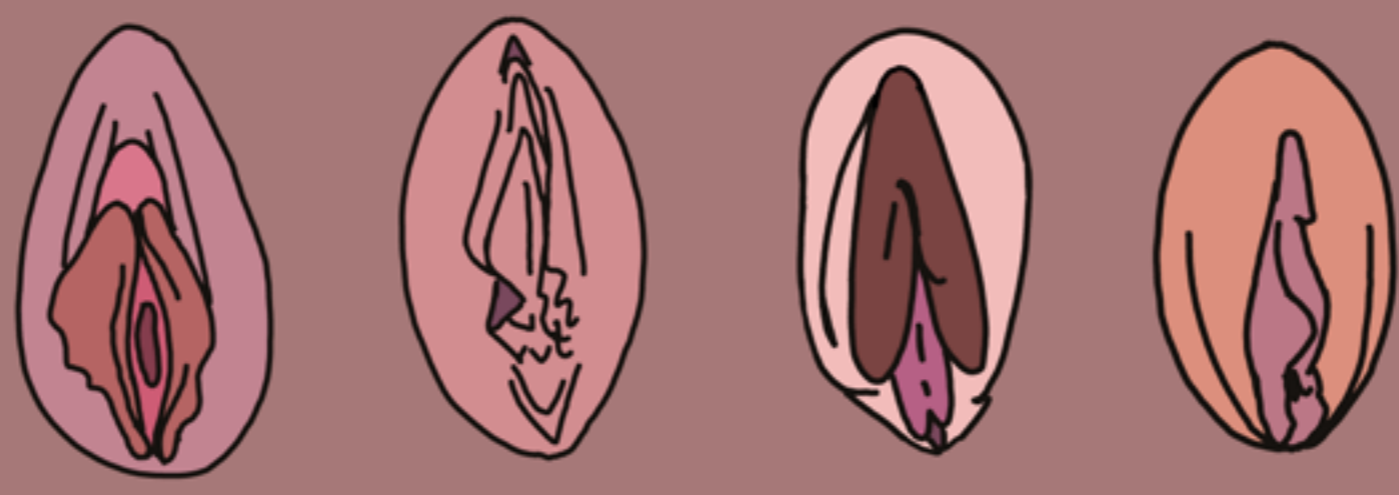


Warmth, Oil on canvas, 20x20cm, 2020.

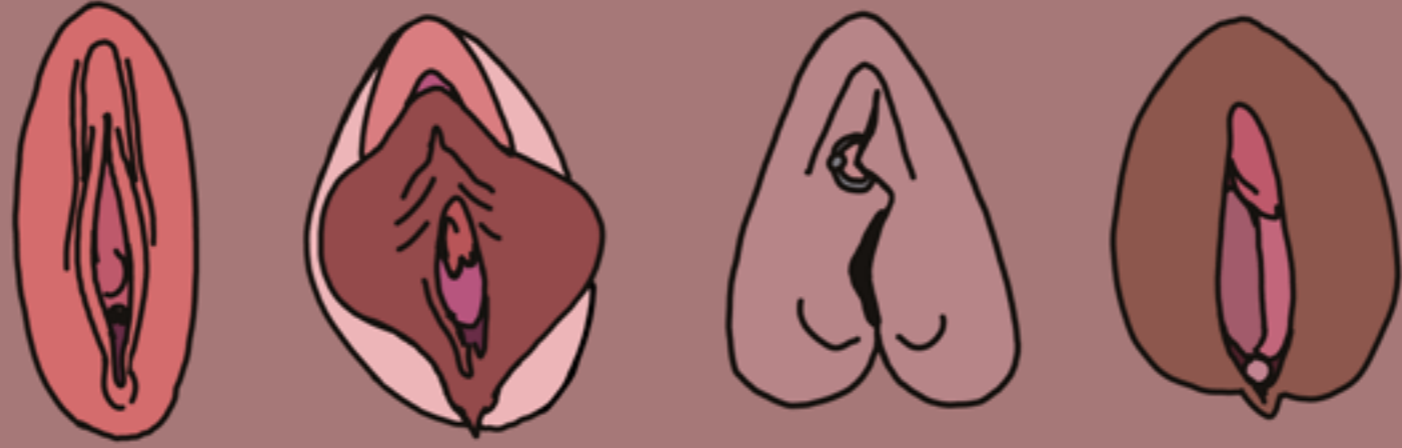
You hate this but I love you
Oil on canvas,
20x20cm, 2020.



Emi Brener
@emibrener.art



GENITALIA
GALLERIA





Fave Sex Position

Scissoring with a magic wand in between us.



Fave Position

Mutual masturbation
rather than intercourse.

Fave Toy

Satisfyer pro plus
vibration.





Fave Position

me on TOP

Fave Toy

Crave Vesper



Fave Toy

I'm trans masculine and these are my genitals before hormones. My favorite toy to use by myself is a small vibrator, but I enjoy being penetrated with a strap on by my partner. I have a small clitoris and a mole on my labia, but I'm learning to love my genitals more every day.





Fave toy

100% my wand! It makes me squirt like crazy.

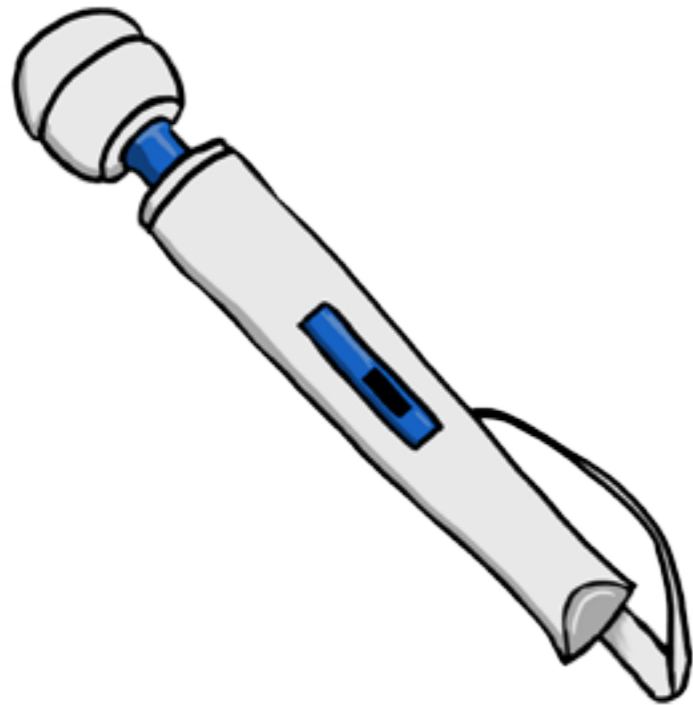


Fave Toy

My magic wand for sure!

Fave Position

My favorite position
is bent over anything
:)



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