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A Series of Zines for the Room Gallery During a Pandemic

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
IRVINE

A Series of Zines for the Room Gallery During a Pandemic

THESIS

submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

in Art

by

Christine Jereza Hudson

Thesis Committee:
Assistant Professor Amanda Ross-Ho, Chair
Professor Daniel Joseph Martinez
Assistant Professor Litia Perta

2020

DEDICATION

To

You,

for taking time to look,

for being present,

and for caring.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my cohort of 2020. I could not have imagined a better crew to journey through the craziness of these past couple of years with. The love and support we have for each other has been one of the tenderest things I've had the pleasure to be a part of. I hope we continue through life together whether it be physically, mentally, or even on the astral plane.

I would like to thank my committee members: Amanda Ross-Ho, Daniel Joseph Martinez, and Litia Perta. Your mentorship has been crucial to my development as an artist, student, and person. Words can not fully express the gratitude I have toward each one of you. Just know that if you ever want some fresh baked bread delivered, I got you.

And to everyone who has supported and encouraged me throughout the years, thank you for showering me with your love and putting up with this difficult pup.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

A Series of Zines for the Room Gallery During a Pandemic

by

Christine Jereza Hudson

Master of Fine Arts in Art

University of California, Irvine, 2020

Assistant Professor Amanda Ross-Ho, Chair

This writing assembles itself as a series of zines meant to explore the concepts of a thesis show put on pause during a pandemic. It is not a substitute for a show that might never happen, but instead is a follow-up to an unimaginable situation fully realized and lived through. Using personal narrative and the zine format as tools the writing examines queerness, porches, karaoke, and the relationships we form as a way to explore alternative methods of how knowledge is passed and exchanged. It cycles through location, place, and time to give form to a body of writing that allows space for what cannot be said, what gets embellished, and what cannot be looked at linearly. It is an attempt at creating a rhetoric that accounts for information that cannot be hyper-visible, that is not so straightforward, and that defies clarification.

THESIS

April 4, 2020 was the set date for the opening of my thesis show *The Porch: Queeraoke and Friends*. A couple weeks before installation was to begin, an outbreak of COVID-19 spread across the western coast effectively locking down the campus and canceling all forms of public gatherings, including shows. The momentum I had accumulated towards the production of a show meant to encapsulate my time as a graduate student at UCI came to a halt as the world went into quarantine and self-isolation. Throughout the last quarter, the shift to social distancing and the move to make everything digital caused me to reconsider my treatment of the thesis writing. This led to the creation of a series of zines for the Room Gallery during a pandemic.

Each of the five sections present in the writing is meant to be its own zine. These zines do not attempt to disclose or clarify all of their information upfront but instead utilize the format of zines and the power of storytelling to weave around, talk next to, and be in conversation with the sections conjoined to it. The rhetoric the writing explores uses pattern, repetition, imagery, and space to create a cyclical flow that disrupts a linear epistemological methodology. These zines are not a substitution for a thesis show, but can be considered maybe more of an addendum, an artifact that imbricated its presence into the concepts of a show placed on pause.

Due to certain limitations in formatting thesis papers, a digital version of the writing is available for viewing in the supplemental material section. The manuscript found in the supplemental material section is the actual thesis, while this writing is serving as a stand-in to meet certain requirements. Paper versions of the zines will be printed when the resources for production are acquired. They will be on view at a future group show my cohort plans to have

once it is safe to do so and will be available for purchase via email request to

cjHUDSON2314@gmail.com.

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