

QTPOC JOY

Bea Song

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Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.



BACKGROUND

- Lack of safe space and shared community
 - White supremacy within LGBTQ community (Han, Mays)
 - Alienation within POC communities (Mays)
- Lack of adequate QTPOC resources (Wynn & West-Olatunji)



CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS

- Capitalism robs life of the power of the erotic (Lorde)
- Joy as resistance (Lorde)
- Art and expression as reclamation of oneself (Rivera)
- No one is free until everyone is free (Combahee River Collective)

GOALS



Safe space



Art as accessible



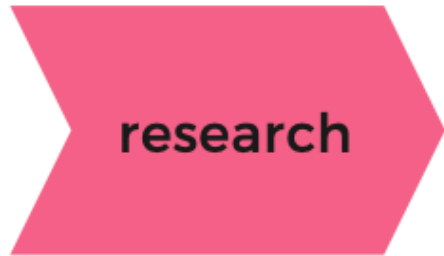
Narrative of joy,
rather than
trauma and
despair



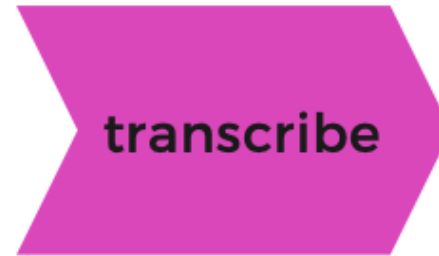
10 Interviews

PROJECT TIMELINE

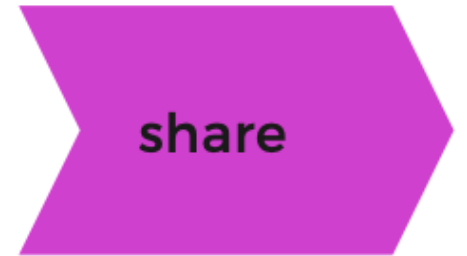
1. Advisor meetings



3. Create questions, consent form, schedule calls



5. Create posts and promote



2. QWAVE, friends,
Instagram

4. Transcribe
interviews

Carmen H Senses of Joy

Joy looks like sharing an experience.

Joy sounds like a steady heartbeat.

Joy feels delicate.

Joy tastes like a delightful surprise.

Joy smells like a difference in the air.



QTPOC JOY PROJECT

- @qtpocjoy on Instagram
- 7 participants
 - Digital artists
 - Musicians
 - Poets
 - Origami
 - Children's story book



"To me, making and gifting origami is an act of love that is felt in every single fold."

- Carmen H

PROJECT INSIGHTS

- Art as healing
- Focus on uplifting others
 - the erotic demand (Lorde)
- Meaning through community (Klein)
- Process and validate their own identities



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QTPOC JOY PROJECT

ZO ANIMO INTERVIEW

ZO ANIMO

AN INTERVIEW WITH BEA SONG

Bea Song: How do you express your joy?

Zo Animo: Well, one way I express my joy is through my art. I really like this one quote, "To create is to live twice". So a lot of times I think of my art or things I make or things I say as just an extension of myself. So one way I express joy is through what I say, what I do and my art. I like making jewelry. I like making digital art. I do logos and like fun designs. So all of that I would consider ways that I can express myself or show joy.

That quote is so beautiful!

It's from Albert Camu. He's a philosopher. He talks a lot about existentialism and like trying to process what we're doing here. Like why we're here, our purpose. But yeah, "to create is to live twice". I liked it so much that it's actually tattooed on my right arm.

How long have you been practicing the different art forms that you're involved in?

I remember doing photo edits and graphic design when I was in high school or even middle school for fun, like super casually. There used to be spoof websites, like Photo Bucket where you can edit your photos. Just simple stuff. Over time I wanted to find out how to do cool Photoshop edits where you'll alter how someone looks or you Photoshop yourself next to celebrities, stuff like that. So just kind of keeping up with pop culture and my own interests. That's kind of what geared me towards those.

Is there any inspiration for your art? Or do you have a more free form art style?

Yeah, I don't really fit into any specific category. If anything, I'm a multimedia artist. Whatever's in front of me will be my art for that moment. There are a lot of artists today that are big on self-expression and not really having to follow a crowd like Tyler the Creator and Brockhampton.

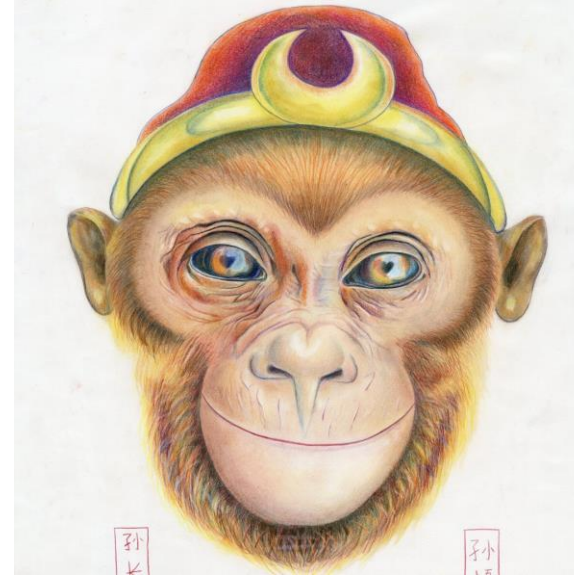


FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

- Writing their own narrative
- Centering QTPOC joy
- No limits to self-expression and art
- Various ways to resist oppression

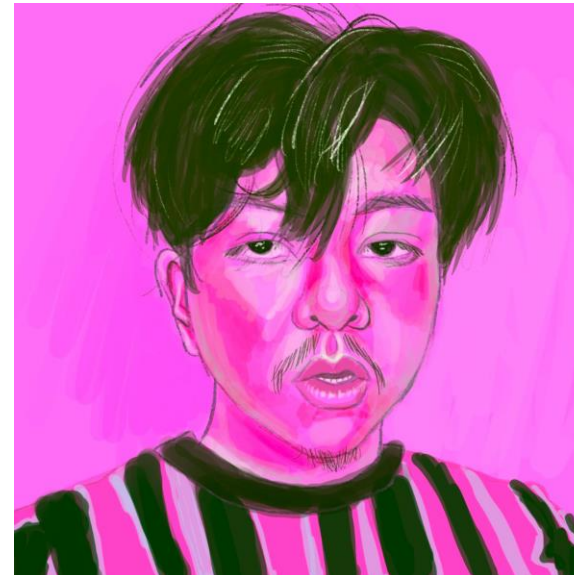
PROJECTED IMPACT

- Each post gains about 4 new followers
- 34 currently, projected for 50
- Outreach to community organizations to share
 - BARKADA NYC
 - Ultraviolet



Julian's Senses of Joy

Joy looks like my loved ones all in one room and we're having a party.
Joy sounds like laughing so hard that you snort.
Joy feels like my heart is rising or like soaring through the sky.
Joy tastes like dark chocolate.
Joy smells like a home cooked meal.



LOOKING FORWARD

- Post 3 more interviews by end of year
- Conduct and post 3 interviews in Spring
- Outreach to more organizations
- Older participants
- Different forms of expression
- After covid – in person events!

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