

Conversation Transcript

Using Wanderground Heartifacts for Inspiration and ArtPlay: A Workshop

Details

- Conversation by: Workshop Participants
- Date & How Recorded: December 7, 2024, Digital Recorder
- Interviewer: Informal conversation recorded by Mev Miller
- Transcript edited by: Juli Anna Herndon / 2nd draft Martha Young
- Last date edited/formatted: September 3, 2025 by Mev Miller

NOTE: The Digital Recorder was placed on the worktable while participants were creating their art pieces. The purpose was to capture informal conversation. Several stories emerged. The transcript is not exact as we don't always know who was speaking. However, several stories did emerge and the transcript is provided in order to share the animated conversation among the participants. Not all voices are recognizable. Attributions are approximated.

{4:30}

[Speaker1]: I remember when I was in college in '88, people said, "well aren't you—" my hair was longer than it is now, and people said, "well, if you don't cut your hair, then how do we know which side you're on?"

Crowd: [general uproar] What year was that?

[Speaker1]: '88

Crowd: What side you're what? "What side you're on"—that's wild.

Thea Ernest [TE]: I came out in a community that was so—there were so many rules about how you had to be to be a lesbian.

Yvonne ____: Oh, I hate that. Which is crazy because, like, we're already, like, subverting the norms by being queer.

[TE]: Right, but at the time... I don't know. [indistinct] Well, also we needed to be really tight because we—because it felt more dangerous.

Crowd: [general murmur of agreement] I see. It was.

[TE]: So people wanted to dress alike and they want—so it was like, flannel shirts, sleeveless t-shirt under that—a white one, which you bought from the Amish store out in the country.

Crowd: Oh really?! Not the Amish store! [laughter] You just go to Duluth Supplies! Exactly!

[TE]: And, um, the Amish store owners after a while were so confused.

Crowd: Oh no! I bet! [general uproar]

[TE]: They're buying men's tshirts...

Crowd: How many husbands do these ladies have?

[TE]: And then, nobody should be caught dead in a brand-name pair of clothes...

Crowd: Ooohhh

[TE]: Or to color their hair...

Crowd: [gasps] You couldn't color your hair?! Yep.

[TE]: Or, to shave their legs...

[Julia S]: No, I remember those times. Oh, it was horrible. First, there was butch-femme, and then the Movement came along, the Women's Movement, and then you had to be androgynous. Everybody had to look alike. Had to look ALIKE. It was really boring, I'll tell you, it was really boring. It was horrible.

[TE]: These were the academic, lesbian, feminist community, which was dangerous 'cause their so well-educated...

[Speaker4?or 1]: And the white socks! Why are you wearing dark green...

Crowd: Not you had to wear white socks! What?! These are such strict rules. I don't remember that one.

[Speaker4?or 1]: Well, I went to Lincoln up in Providence and at that time we had to wear dark green knee socks, so I wore them under all my slacks because they were... they cost good money and I had to wear them out! And people found that very strange.

Crowd: Yeah! Wow!

[Speaker4?or 1]: Why do you have so many green knee socks?

Crowd: [laughter] Oh wow! Interesting. That's just practical though.

[JS] I was just so happy when the '80s rolled around 'cause then there was- there were punkers and just, all kinds of stuff, and everybody could just dress the way they wanted, and oh, it was fun. It was so fun. The '70s were really kind of boring.

Crowd: That sounds so fun... I love that.

{7:06}

[TE]: Now, my sister was—we were living in the same town in Midwest, and she was very... very conservative. So... she said, "I saw this woman on the street today. I think she's a lesbian; she had on work boots—

Crowd: Not the work boots! [laughter]

[TE]: —jeans, a flannel shirt... she was wearing a baseball cap. My sister's wearing the exact same thing as she's telling me—it's just so Midwestern!

Crowd: Exactly! Right!

[TE]: And then I remember going camping with my girlfriend, and we were in Wisconsin, and we'd see these women at the washroom and think, "oh, yeah, yeah..."

Crowd: Oooh...

[TE]: And then they'd go out to their husband and kids... It was very hard to tell what's...

Mev Miller [MM]: That happens a lot in rural areas and in [Maine?]

Crowd: Oh yes! That makes sense...

[JS]: And in Texas! Texas, everybody looks like a butch lesbian.

Crowd: Period!

{8:03}

[Speaker1]: Women's colleges, too. Yeah, this was at Mount Holyoke. Everybody was trying to be more [queer?] than everybody else.

[Y]: Especially like, nowadays with trends of, like, nose rings and a lot of rings, and it's like, I'm like, okay are you actually fruity? Or is this just, like, the style trend?

[MM]: And if you were a Movement dyke in the '80s, you had a rat tail...

Crowd: Ooooh! No! Not the rat tail! Absolutely!

[MM]: And forty-five friendship bracelets.

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[MM]: And every piece of your clothing had some kind of Movement pin on it...

Crowd: Ah, the Movement pins, yes...

[MM]: Even your hat and your knapsack

[Jodi G]: I had a rat tail, and I'll tell you, it got so long until I got a dyke discount...

Crowd: Ooh, dyke discount?! At Womencrafts?

[JG]Yeah, at Womencrafts. We'd go in year after year...

[Ruth H]: Yeah, and I'd always get the discount, and she wouldn't. They wouldn't give her one

Crowd: Wow... Any idea why?

[JG]I don't know. I don't know.

Crowd: You had the rat tail. They were assuming she was too femme to be a dyke. Right?

What?! Wow, I hate that.

[RH]Oh yes, it went on for years.

[JG]Years! And we'd be in there together...

Crowd: Oh that's so unfortunate. That's kind of not acknowledging you.

[MM]: I wish I still had the buttons that said "Femme-y dyke and—" no, "Femme-y butch" and "Butch-y femme."

Crowd: [uproarious laughter] That's how I would describe myself. That works. That definitely works.

[Y]: Now one thing I've been curious—so I am someone who came into my queerness later in life, but then also I think with so much online, there wasn't as much community of, like, flagging as there was back then. I am curious, what was, like, the flagging and cruising scene like for lesbians back in the day?

[JS]: It was kind of hot in San Francisco

[Y]: I guess, like, the hankie codes or whatever?

[JS]+: Some women wore hankies.

[Y]: I didn't know if lesbians also did that.
[JS]: But some women did it. Some women did.
[MM]: Some women who were in the S/M community
[JS]: Oh yeah, in L.A. and San Francisco.
[Y]: But it wasn't really as common among lesbians, okay, I see.
[JS]: Yeah, but they did do that. And they'd often wear, like, a bracelet, not S/M, but just regular Lesbians, if they were, like, more femme, and a—what was it?
[Y]: I see. As the kind of indicators.
[JS]: —butch was left, femme was right.
[Y]: I see, okay. Very interesting!
[JS]: Or pink earrings. That was the thing since the fifties.
[MM]: Or the pinkie ring with the labrys on it.
[Y]: Ooooh! Oh, I love that!
[JS]: And then the women's thing around your neck, the woman sign, yeah.
[Y]: Oh, I see what you mean, yeah yeah.
Crowd: Did you ever hear of patchouli?
[Y]: Oh, uh-huh.
Crowd: Patchouli was what all the lesbians wore.
[JS]: Absolutely.
[Y]: Interesting... Patchouli... Like a patchouli scent?
Crowd: Yes, that was like, the lesbian perfume.
[Y]: "Oh, you smell gay!" [laughs]
[JS]: Really!
[Y]: I see! It's like, okay, we know what's up with you.
[TE]: There were women in my community who wore red necklaces when they were menstruating.
Crowd: Oh! Wow!
[TE]: Because you wanted people to know. Because you were proud of that.
[Y]: I see, interesting.
Crowd: That I've not heard of.
[Y]: That's powerful.

{10:56}

[MM]: So, one of the things that I experienced in the 1980's was that, that there were a lot of lesbians who were in recovery, you know, and so they were always going to AA meetings and whatever, whatever. And then I think there were other meetings for like, if you were a sexual abuse survivor, you know, so there was all these different, like, support groups, okay. So I was very active in political work and activism and whatnot, and so I was talking to a friend one time,

and I was always going to *political* meetings, and so I said to this friend of mine, I said, “well I have a couple of meetings I have to go to this week,” and she asked this question in such a way to try to find out if I was going to AA...

Crowd: Oooh!

[MM]: I was like, “no, no, no, no, I’m going to *political* meetings...”

Crowd: Exactly.

[MM]: It was such a weird experience, I was like, “oh!” Because people talk about going to *meetings* all the time.

Crowd: Yeah! I see. “Oh, I’ve got a meeting on Saturday.”

[TE]: ...She thought maybe you had a secret? Was she a Lesbian asking you this?

[MM]: I don’t know what she —I think she just wanted to know. This was a Lesbian, and I think she was in recovery herself, and so I think it was her way of trying to... decipher my code, you know.

Crowd: Maybe trying to see if it was a fellow person in recovery or something...

[MM]: I don’t know, it was weird. It was very interesting.

{12:10}

[JS]: And then the short hair. That’s always a way...

[Y]: Oh yeah, that’s so true, the short hair was a big thing.

[JS]: ‘Cause at one point I had really short hair. I could walk down the street and boom, boom, boom. Hi, hi, hi! Hi!

[Y]: That’s why I think— like, I would imagine for a lot of the, like, butch lesbians, there’s that way, but like for femmes in the days, that’s what I was kind of wondering, like, how did people, like, identify the femme lesbians, you know?

[MM]: The butches knew.

[JS]: The butches, yeah.

[Y]: Oh, the butches just knew, okay. We just knew, okay.

[JS]: You got cruised a little bit more.

[Y]: You’re so right, though. You’re so right actually, that’s fair.

[TE]: What was the name of that bar on Valley Street in Providence?

Crowd: The Cabana.

[TE]: The Cabana! So, I came from an academic, Lesbian, feminist community from the midwest.

Yvonne: Oh, wow. That’s amazing.

[TE]: I’d never seen butch-femme lesbians. I went into the Cabana; half the room looks like John Travolta—

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[TE]:—and half the room looks like Dolly Parton.

Crowd: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Please!

[TE]: And I was just like—well, who am I?! What am I doing here?! It was really... it was very... kind of shocking.

Crowd: Wow. But you figured it out. You figured it out. Exactly.

[TE]: Yes. I mean, it wasn't my place, exactly...

Martha Young [MY]: It was kind of a... kind of a scary bar, I thought, like—'cause I was from Newport, so it was kind of, like, we had, you know...

Crowd: I thought it was a scary bar. Yeah!

[Y]: Oh wait, why was it scary?

[TE]: There were fights in the parking lot and stuff.

[Y]: Oh, I see, so like a lot of fights going on.

Crowd: Yeah.

[MM]: There was, um, what was it... Carol and the Burgundies?

[TE]: Oh, the Burgundies sang there, yeah.

[MY]: And I just, I was, like, so, like, such a naive little kid from, like, hanging out in school in Newport, and, um, and the drummer was, like, I don't know, was like, I think she was three sheets to the wind and she's doing this drum solo—

Crowd: Oh noooo...

[MY] —Telling a story, I think it was Carol.

Crowd: She opened a bar, didn't she? Huh? I don't know.

[MY]: Maybe. But she's telling this story about her girlfriend who got shot in the back—

Crowd: Oh my God!

[MY]: And I'm like, it was just...

Crowd: So scary! I'm outta here! Yeah, no, like, I'm out... Oh, that's a lot.

[MM]: I was at a bar one time when I was living in Detroit that was definitely a butch-femme, tough dyke, motorcycle-type bar—

Crowd: Oooh! That sounds fun.

[MM]: —and a fist-fight actually broke out

Crowd: Oh God!

{30:56}

[Speaker1]: I'm in art class over here...

[Y]: Ooh, I love it!

[Speaker1]: With Mrs. Johnson, that was my art teacher!

Crowd: [all laugh]

[Speaker1]: I remember the time I drew a house and [indistinct] it was maybe perspective, I don't know what you would call it because I don't know anything about art, but... and I drew a house and she wanted people to draw a chimney on it, and my chimney, I guess, just did not

make any sense to her, the way that it was placed... And you know what they say, a teacher says something to you and it just...

[MM]: Yeah...

[Speaker1]: No matter what. Just like, “*that’s* not a chimney!”

[TE]: How long ago was that?

[Speaker1]: That was in... fourth grade.

Crowd: [general hubub]

[MM]: When I was in grade school the Art Nun would have—

[Y]: The Art Nun, of I love that!

Crowd: [laughter]

[MM]: —the Catholic kids, Catholic kids, you know, whatever, third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade—

[JG]: Sister Mary [indistinct]?

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[MM]: Yeah. Sister Mary Vagina Perpetually Wet

Crowd: [more laughter]

[MM]: Anyway, her idea of an art class was all the kids would sit with a little piece of paper in front of us with our ruling pencils and she would go on the chalkboard, she’d go, “now measure four inches up from the bottom and draw a straight line...” So the whole art class was this: “And then go across six inches to the right—” you know. So she was drawing a house and she would draw it on the board and she would measure it out. Well, you know, 32 kids all had different dimensions—”

Crowd: Of course! Exactly!

[MM]: Because we knew how to use a ruler! We didn’t want to use a ruler. We weren’t Picasso.

[RH] I bet she taught—she probably taught art and math, right?

[MM]: I don’t remember. It was just excruciating.

[37:29]

[TE]: So when we talk about our work today, here’s what I want to suggest. I want the person next to you to hold the work up. Because, otherwise, I’m going to be talking like this about my work. So, have someone else hold it up so you can see it—maybe the person across the table from you—um, you can see it, you can speak about it, but you’re not burying your face in your work when you’re talking. Um, and... I want the person who made the work to first tell us about it and tell us, maybe, also what went well, what was challenging, what, kind of, what did this bring up for you... um, what object inspired you. And then... and *then*, if everyone else has comments, that would be a good time for comments. So, um... we- I belong to a drawing group that meets every Saturday, and someone will stand up and show their work and they’ll say, “oh, this really—this really was a mess today,” and everyone else jumps right in and goes, “no, no, it

looks beautiful!” It’s like, just leave a little breath, a little room for the person to just tell you what their experience was like today, um, and about the piece itself. Yeah. So, shall we start? Does somebody want to start?

[JS]: I’ll go first...

(TE): Now, remind us of your name, so we just all have a review...

[JS]: My name is [JS], [JS] Stearns with an “a” in it—people always spell it wrong, it’s the English version, and , uh... I... like I say, I’m trying to socialize again after being widowed and going through a—a kind of a bad experience with someone else. And I just wanted to just look at this book, I don’t know why, just ‘cause it trapped [?] me, and there was things about what you say when you’re... when you’re, uh, talking to somebody about some matter like being together or breaking up of whatever. So, I just decided to just fill this out; this is probably not to do with the art, right? This is like the... but I said, that’s all the art I can do today.

[TE]: Okay!

[JS]: I thought this event was very stimulating... Um, I never realized how much I love Rhode Island. I love it. I love it.

Crowd: Aw, yay!

[JS]: I mean, better than California or Texas, and I like, and I like upstate New York, but I just love the weather and the people seem more grounded, not as flaky—

Crowd: [laughter]

[JS]: I could be wrong, I could be wrong, but what I mean is they seem more settled, and I like that. And then I like looking around the room and I saw that thing that says, “Love women or die,” I just thought, “wow! I gotta love women *before* I die.”

Crowd: [laughter]

[JS]: You know what I mean? It’s not over just ‘cause I’m a widow, it’s not over. And I will be able to attract someone that, that wants to get married and, you know, have a decent relationship. And I said I’d like to know about—*more* about—all kinds of women, their interests and their passions. ‘Cause I like to make changes about every twenty years or so, I go from being a bibliophile, book collector, and then I went into horses for ten years and now I’m into partner dancing. So, it’s like, you don’t know what’s going to happen, but you kind of just go with the flow. So I’m meeting a lot of people that way, too. And then there were comments in here about—and it just kind of stabbed me in the heart a little bit, uh... A person I hooked up with on the internet after my spouse died, and she, uh, she stole a lot of money from me, but um, one thing she used—I used to say to her was just that it, just my tastes are different than yours. I don’t know why that... We just couldn’t sync. She lived with me for like a year and two months, helped me with my spouse for a couple of months and then took off with a ton of my money. And I couldn’t have her arrested—I tried to, I got the police involved, the FBI involved, and Adult Protective Services, ‘cause she was younger than me, and all kinds of things, but they all said, “nah, it’s a civil matter.”

Crowd: [general murmuring of disapproval]

[JS]: So I ended up finally finding a lawyer to deal with it, but then he wanted me to pay him upfront. He was a very good lawyer, big sharp teeth, *but* he wouldn't take—and I said, "Well, if I do that, I could be actually spending all the rest of my money trying to get my—'cause the woman bought a house in Ohio, she went across lines with my money—you know, but I don't know why the FBI didn't want to be involved.

{TE}: So there was something in the book that stimulated those memories?

[JS]: Yeah, the things, just that, "my tastes are different than yours."

Crowd: Yeah, I see...

[JS]: 'Cause we never really—she was just living off me, we weren't having sex, nothing like that, she didn't want to and I didn't want to cause I was still in love with my spouse... But, she was so diff—she was a *loner*, and I've been a loner a lot in my life when I was younger, but I'm not any more. Since I got married for thirty years, and I was also married—not really married, but together with a woman for five years, very very serious monogamous relationship—so, I just feel like... I wanted to *expand*, and I, I'm going to try to realize, if I talk with somebody and I just suddenly realize "my tastes are different than yours," then it's time to [thunk] cut the cord. You know what I mean? That's why speed-dating really appeals to me; it's like, "oh, you like to golf? I hate to golf."

Crowd: [laughter]

[JS]: You know, yeah. So I'm feeling really, uh good about being here.

[TE]: It's great that you came to the archives, found the right book for you, and then the words came out.

[JS]: Yes, exactly. And I feel really good that I expressed that. Yeah. So that's all the art I have today. [laughs] I do love art, I do portraits, but I haven't done them since my spouse became ill, I just, uh, really turned off—

[TE]: But you're gonna draw again. I can tell.

[JS]: I'm gonna draw again. And paint. I loved it, I loved it. So okay, next! [chuckles]

[TE]: Denise, want to show us your piece?

Denise DiMarzio [DM] [?]: Sure, do you want me to do the... give it to somebody else?

[TE]: Give it to someone else to hold up.

[DD]: On the other side of the table, or... ?

[TE]: Yeah, that would be great, someone can hold it up for people to see.

Crowd: [general oohs and ahs]

[DD]: Okay, thanks, thank you... So I saw the tshirt over there, hanging up on the top rack there, "tomboy," and, um, recently I happened to see a photograph of myself that I had never seen before, myself as a child, maybe seven or eight years old, in my family's garden. I grew up on my

grandparents' farm, so I've had a garden every year of my entire life. And I look at that picture and it was, it really struck me because I thought, "that is *exactly* who I am."

Crowd: [murmuring]

[DD]: I had on my little jeans and my wide, 1970s belt, and I think it was a *Happy Days* tshirt, like, and, uh... my classic was my baseball hat worn on backwards...

Crowd: [crowd chuckles]

[DD]: And I was hammering in a stake for tomatoes. And I saw that picture and I thought, "what the hell happened to her?" Um, and all of the, um... you know, what you're allowed be and what you're not allowed to be? And for the younger people here, you know, my young adulthood in the '80s, my girlfriend had a hidden—had a separate, separate room, a fake bedroom...

Crowd: [murmuring]

[DD]: All of the, you know, everything hidden, and, you know—a hidden life, and so, it's hard to see, but the little, um—the letters on the top had that paper backing, and the paper backing, I pasted down underneath there, you can barely see it, because it's like invisible life, right?

Crowd: wow! ooh!

[DD]: But, um, boy, like, I don't know, something, I'm just too old for this shit now, I guess—

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[DD]: Why should I have this invisible life? So, that's kind of what came to me and that tshirt really kind of sparked it off in connection to that, uh, that photo I happened to see recently that really kind of stunned me.

Crowd: It's a wonderful piece, I love, um, the trellises...

[DD]: Aw thanks! [chuckles] Thank you for listening!

[42:50]

Ruthie Horton [RH]: So, I did "tomboy" also, and I saw that and I was like, "that's great." Um, so... yeah, I mean since I was a—I grew up on a little farm—and since I was a little girl, I mean I always did "boy things." It's just how I lived, you know, I mean I had my own little pond, my brother hunted, and my father had gardens. That, the middle piece is the, um, an old schoolhouse because my dad had me very late in life (he was born 1910), so, um and I was gonna ask you if you knew how to make- draw, uh, a razor? You know the safety razors men used to use?

Crowd: [murmuring]

[TE]: Straight razors! Sure!

[RH]: Because when my, when I was little my dad bought me a plastic razor with actually paper little, you know, razor blades in it, so when he would shave with his cup, I would do the same. And so, they didn't push back on me then.

Crowd: Aw, that is so cute! Wow, I love that. That is so good.

[RH]: They left me and let me do what I wanted.

Crowd: Wow, it's beautiful, though.

[TE]: Thank you Ruthie.

[RH]: Oh, and I love pink!

{47:19}

Jodi Glass [JG]: So, what spoke to me out there was "curfew," 'cause, um, I love the idea of men having a curfew.

Crowd: [uproarious laughter and agreement] Yes! I'm with you on that! What an awesome idea!

[JG]: I brought Take Back the Night to Rhode Island in 1979 and, um, we did that for many, many, many years and it—I put "for your peace of mind," and your peace of body and soul and spirituality. So, um, and like Martha was saying, I don't have an artistic stitch in me, so I said, "Rhode Island—" (I'm from New York) "Rhode Island is the Lesbian paradise," and yes, it is, and I found my love of 43 years here—

Crowd: Aw! Oh my goodness!

[JG]: So, and that women's music makes me feel loved, happy, and safe. But mostly, let's put a curfew on men.

Crowd: [more uproarious laughter] That's awesome.

[TE]: So bright! I love it!

[JG]: Oh! And I left out one of the most important parts! The pink triangle, meaning— for what women had to wear—actually, that's for men to wear, in Nazi Germany.

[JS] And the women wore the black one.

[JG]: Lesbians wore black triangles. Thank you!

{49:02}

[TE]: So I thought this was going to be some kind of three-dimensional, like... Like an ornament that could hang, but it didn't work out that way, so it turned into a little book. And I— this, so if you open it up, every page is like this, which is on one of these cards over here, on the newsletter. And, um, the stickers on there because the marker bled through—

Crowd: [laughter]

[TE]: You have to, like, be inventive about it. And all the saying on here are from buttons in the front room that really spoke to me. Um, so it was different—you can read them if you—

[Speaker1]: "Dyke to watch out for," Allison Bechdel; "Lavender menace," and that is... oh, I forgot the name...

[JG]It was the name of an organization, wasn't it, or...?

[MM]: It was... R.J. and the um, the... when they were protesting N.O.W.

[Speaker1]: N.O.W.! Yes, yes. Um, "Be Kind to Your Genitals Week..."

[TE]: That just seemed like a good thing to say...

Crowd: [laughter and agreement]

[Speaker1]: Yup! That's a good thing to say. "I own my own body but I share."

Crowd: [laughter and oohs]

[Speaker1]: That is beautiful. That is great. And there's one more...

Crowd: It's like a zine almost...

[Speaker1]: "I'm the person your mother warned you about."

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[TE]: The first button that was on there that reminded me, I mean, that I owned it one time was "I like older women." But when I turned 35, I thought, er, there's younger women now that need this button more than me.

Crowd: [laughter]

[TE]: So it's very funny, it's very strange... Also, I found out that actually, um, the cowboy stickers do very well in a Lesbian book. Like, "wanderlust," "find me where the wild things roam..." they really fit perfectly.

Crowd: [general agreement]

[TE]: They worked with the theme, and the cactus and stuff like that. So that was my artwork.

{51:13}

[Alex B]: Okay, so I actually did two—I'll have you hold them in a second—so it's two little pieces, um... they open, um, and... this one folds out. So it's two pictures, I just took here in the other room, um, and it is a dictionary—well, it's like Lesbian words that I got out of a copy of *Lesbian Connection*. Um, so I have—I'll let you hold that up—um, and I'm gonna—I have plans for these tags; I'm gonna age them and stamp on them, like, "Dyke Dictionary." Um, and then this one folds out paper—I'm gonna put something else... uh, I did the wrong direction—now the picture and, um, more like another—the other half of the dictionary.

Crowd: "Dyke-tionary"!

[AB]: Dyke-tionary, yeah!

Crowd: [all laugh]

[AB]: So, uh, something just about the idea of, like, little treasures, finding little treasures, and like, information and words... I don't know, like squirreling away words... little library, like making our own little, like, library-to-go...

[TE]: And it's like you could slip it to somebody as you walk down the street...

Crowd: [agreement, laughter]

[AB]: Like a secret little package! So, I had a fun time doing something different.

Crowd: [murmur of admiration]

[AB]: Thank you! Thank you, yeah! Cool. That was fun.

{52:43}

[Kristin B]: Um, so I'm also inspired by all the little buttons out there, um, and then I also like the buttons and stuff in here, where things are overlapping and, and I already like collaging, so. Um, I put, you know, standard things, like "I'm a butch dyke" and, you know, whatever, "live life loud," but I love the *Dykes to Watch Out For*, and I was inspired by... um, the buttons out there that are really funny, so I love "The ties that chafe" —

Crowd: [laughter]

[KB]: 'Cause I have thunder thighs, so... [laughs] But then I have, like, a lot of hands and florals and stuff because... hands are important for Lesbians...

Crowd: [giggles]

[KB]: Um, and so I just, I don't know, I was inspired by imagery and silly sayings, and stuff like that because I'm—I haven't been out for that long, so I'm trying to be a little, like, more present and more into it, and being just silly with it, so...

Crowd: [murmurs of admiration] Yeah! Excellent!

[TE]: Do you keep a notebook of drawings and things?

[Speaker1]: I have a smaller one, I don't know if I have in my bag, but—

[TE]: And maybe, so you brought this, I mean you could add to that book, keep making—

[KB]: Oh yeah. Absolutely. I have one that I did like—every week I do one, and then... it's like a little thick book at the end, but [giggles] yeah.

[TE]: Oh yeah, yeah! You could also cut out every other page, and it will give you a little bit of space for the things that you've added and then it sandwiches better.

[KB]: Ah, that's a great idea. Thank you!

[JG]: And you cut it with, like, an X-acto knife so you don't get that weird, like fraying kind of, like, jaggedy pattern as well.

[TE]: Yes, it depends what kind of... um, some of them are perforated.

[KB]: This one and the other one I had wasn't...

[?]: The kind I gave you, if you cut it out with a knife that would be perfect.

[TE]: Yeah, yeah. That would work well.

[?]: That's what I did with my Moleskines for a while—

[TE]: Right, 'cause otherwise the books all end up like this...

{54:40}

[MY]: [sighs] Okay, let's see. So. I was inspired by the, um, the music albums over there, um... Meg Christian was— and Cris Williamson, which represents the "M" and the "C"—were two of my absolute—are two of my absolute favorite, um, musicians, um... And, yeah, I feel like, if there was a tape of Megan Christian at Carnegie Hall, I had- I had two copies of it in college, which I completely, like, wore out—

Crowd: [laughter]

[MY]: 'Cause that was a thing that you could do back then, and then it's now out of print, so that kind of kills me, um...

[MM]: I think you can get it on Spotify...

[MY]: Um, but they were really instrumental- I'm sorry?

Mev: Check it out on Spotify. Or even on YouTube.

[MY]: Like, I've seen some of their, like, the songs within it, but like, getting the whole thing together, I mean I just played it over and over

[MM]: We can.. I think we can tape it for you!

[MY]: Yeah? Oh, gosh, that would be... it was, I was fortunate to be an R.A. on the last years of college, so I had my own room, so...

Crowd: [uproarious laughter]

[MY]: Nobody had to worry about it, but... Somebody's come knocking on the door, it's like [bangs on the table], "shut it off!" [laughs] But they were really instrumental in, you know, my coming out in my, like, college years, so... Um, and Women's- like, Women's Music was just, um... it just kind of tied together everything that I was experiencing in college and kind of gave me a voice and safety, um... yeah, take 'em out.

Crowd: [examines artwork, murmurs of approval]

[JG]: We were there.

[RH]: At Carnegie, yeah.

Crowd: [oohs and ahs]

[TE]: Oh, you got to be there in person?

[JG]: Yeah...

Mev: [whispers] I was there, too!

Crowd: Wow!

[JG]: It was great. Great.

[MY]: Unbelievable.

{56:24}

[Jess J]: I can present mine because they're small enough they won't block my face.

Crowd: Oh, how cute! Ahhh!

[JJ]: I was inspired by the little—by that little—yeah, so I made a matching little, like butch-femme couple.

Crowd: [all croon]

[JJ]: One of them has the little yarn buzz cut, and the other has the, you know, dressed in her best, and I couldn't find any plaid, but this was the closest—

Crowd: [erupts in laughter]

[Y]: You could just draw some little lines to just give it...

[JJ]: Exactly, yeah. But, um, yeah, when I get home I have some, um, some scraps of leather and I'm gonna give her a little biker jacket.

Crowd: Oh, how cute! That's awesome.

[JJ]: But yeah, I just made these kind of just, like, you know, again, inspired by that little guy who I just, I adored that idea, so I decided to steal it [chuckles].

[TE]: They might need to get together, they may—

[JJ]: Oh, yeah! [laughs]

[MM]: Ooh, a threesome!

Crowd: [all laugh]

[JJ]: They're all going to go on adventures!

[MM]: Menage à trois! [all laugh]

[JJ]: But I'm also going to go to work after this so I'm just going to put them in my pocket and they can just be little pocket dykes for me. [all laugh] Keeping me company for my shift at work.

[Speaker4?or 1]: That's a whole thing, pocket dykes, I love it!

[JJ]: Yeah, just, like, there for me [giggles]

Crowd: Emotional support pocket dykes!

[JJ]: yes, exactly!

Crowd: That's a million-dollar idea!

{57:55}

[Y]: Alrighty. So this is still a work in progress, but, um... sorry, I lost my train of thought. So, hi again, I'm Yvonne, like I said. Uh, this was—I was inspired to do something themed as, like, yes, a collage, but I also want it to do something in the theme of, like, the Pride flag, so I grabbed a bunch of different, like, little rectangles and squares, like from the collections. And so I wanted to have the progress flag for Black and Brown people, I wanted to have the trans flag because I also identify as trans and nonbinary, and then the Queer flag, but I also wanted to have a couple extra colors to try to symbolize the lesbian flag in there, so basically all the Queer flavors I resonate with. Um, and I just kind of added things that stood out to me, so like we have different phrases, we have this person with the "dyke" tattoo, um... I very much identify as a dyke, and I just love the name and the identity, um... the pink triangles, actually that gave me an idea of kind of putting the pink *and* the back ones as, like, solidarity. Um, I thought this one was interesting, 'cause even though it's like, it's a man, but a gay man, so I feel like this is, like, a nice representation, too, of like, you know, just queerness, gayness, and then these are all different excerpts that I took from, um, the *Lesbian Connection*, so this is one that talks about standing with, like, our trans siblings, and in particular our trans sisters; this one was about, like, past relationships and sort of, like, overcoming that; this one was "my sisters, you really did choose to be a lesbian before you were born," and I think that's especially powerful, 'cause I am also someone who came into my sexuality, um, very late in life; I identify as "queer" more so, um,

but I do embody the sapphic experience and, um, so I felt like this was very affirming. But yeah, and so just different little clips and words and things that just stood out to me or resembled something gay. Um, and so yeah, so I'm going to be taking this home and adding more things to it, but I think it's gonna be a cool little poster on my wall. Well, cool *big* poster on my wall!

Crowd: [murmuring approval, laughing]

[JG]A working art piece.

[Y]: Yeah, a working art piece! Thank you!

[TE]: Yeah, definitely room to add to it and you've got all these different things— I kind of picture more and more posters around it with strings going from one—

[Y]: Exactly! Yeah. Thank you, thank you, so yeah, we'll build off this.

[Speaker4?or 1]: Or a Venn diagram came to mind.

[Y]: Ooh! I should add a Venn diagram in there somewhere

[TE]: And it could be a board game for the—

[Y]: Oh my God, you're so right! There you go!

[All laugh]

[Y]: Yeah, so there's like a lot I could do with this, yeah, the possibilities are endless

{1:00:48}

[HK]: Okay, mine's very small, so I'll hold it up myself—

Crowd: Aww! How cute! [oohs and ahs]

[HK]: I don't know if some people will remember—I was inspired by the tshirts over there, and there used to be a place in Provincetown called "Don't Panic," which sold all kinds of-

Crowd: Oh, right, yeah!

[HK]: -of cool tshirts, so: "I'm not a Lesbian, but my girlfriend is," is the sort of thing—

Crowd: [laughs]

[JG]"I can't even think straight" was another good one!

[Y]: I honestly need that on a tshirt.

[RH]I loved that store. Is it not there anymore?

Crowd: I don't think it is.

[HK]: It's not the same, but that's true of a lot of things.

{1:01:25}

[TE]: Mev, you have something you want to share?

[MM]: I do.

Crowd: Ooh, yay!

[TE]: She's working away, quietly in the corner.

Crowd: [oohs and ahs] That's lovely!

[MM]: So, I wasn't gonna do anything originally, but...

[TE]: Can we hold it up for you?

[MM]: But I saw... I saw this picture and I was really inspired by the initial conversation we were having about Wanderground being Lesbian space, and, you know, making this kind of community happen, sort of thing. And so I just grabbed stuff that, you know, "Lesbians Connect," and then I put in here *Dykes to Watch Out For*, "Dykes gonna dyke,"

Crowd: [laughs]

[MM]: And the labrys and, you know, just some pictures. But this sort of— imagine all of this is happening here in Wanderground.

Crowd: Wow...

[MM]: And this woman here, I don't know who she is, but she very much reminds me of a friend of mine, so I just liked that picture, so...

Crowd: She has such an evocative face! yeah! Very cool!

[MM]: Anyway, so I just kind of grabbed what I could quickly grab.

Crowd: I love it! Yeah, that's nice! Wonderful! Are you gonna, like, hang it up somewhere here?

[MM]: Probably might hang it up somewhere in here, yeah. Maybe in the front room or something.

Crowd: Nice! I love that! Wonderful!