

Black Trans Joy Zine

A Spring 2024 Zine





CASEY BYRD

MEET

THE

COVER

ARTIST

Pronouns He/Him

Age 16

Instagram @inkcree

State North Carolina

Bio Casey is a 16-year-old black transgender artist who resides in North Carolina with his family and 2 dogs. As a transgender individual, Casey sees art as a powerful medium to convey personal narratives and advocate for greater understanding and acceptance. Casey's artistic journey began at a young age when he discovered a love for drawing and painting.

Bio Continued



This passion evolved into a dynamic and diverse skill set, encompassing various mediums such as digital art, traditional painting, graphic design, and a love for photography. Casey's unique perspective and abilities have garnered attention and accolades far beyond his years.

As the youngest member of the POC (People of Color) Youth Advisory Board at Time Out Youth, a renowned organization dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth, Casey has been selected for significant projects, including the creation of the logo. The logo created by Casey reflects a powerful fusion of color, symbolism, and inclusivity, resonating with the mission of Time Out Youth to create safe spaces for young individuals of diverse backgrounds. While Casey does not consider himself to be a trailblazer, he desires to continue to use the stroke of his brush or click of his digital pen to create captivating visuals while shaping a narrative that celebrates diversity, resilience, and the beauty of embracing one's true self.





Digital version of zine

ORIGINAL

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"The Warmth of Gender Euphoria" by Kio Wallace



KIO WALLACE

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns He/They

Age 16

State Illinois

Bio

My name is Kio and I'm a black nonbinary queer person! I've been making art for as long as I could remember, and I think me finding my true self with my gender identity has helped my art flourish. I'm also a writer for my school's magazine, where I most often write about my experiences as a black trans person and how that effects my view of the world. Aside from my identity, I'm a heavy enjoyer of media such as music, cartoons, video games (especially horror), and ARGs, and majority of my art is based around that.

Transcript:



In the history of time, a narrative unfolds,
Of resilience, courage, as the story molds.
In the echoes of struggle, a melody arose,

Black joy harmonizing, breaking through shadows,
From history's pages, voices arise,
A symphony of triumph, reaching the skies.

Bold and beautiful, black trans souls,
Breaking through barriers, reclaiming roles.
Liberation's dance, a rhythm so sweet,
In the heartbeat of progress, a victory beat.

In the crucible of oppression, strength is honed,
Yet, like phoenix rising, seeds are sown.
Transcending hardships, a narrative reborn,
Soy quien soy, I stick to everything but the norm.

In the mirror of time, reflections clear,
A celebration of self, that is without fear.

From the Harlem ballrooms to midnight streets,
transforming boundaries, where joy repeats.
Marsha's whispers, Stonewall's cries,
In the struggle, where hope never dies.

Through defeats and victories, hand in hand,
Transgender liberation, a courageous stand.
Black joy, a beacon, breaking the night,
History rewritten, in love and light.



"The Real Narrative" by JP



JP

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns He/Him

State Massachusetts

Instagram @refineyournarrative

Bio JP is an public educator and national storyteller. He aims his truths to provide platforms for youth and peers to build community around resiliency and transparency. His work involves sharing stories to end shame and start conversations.



"Feeling Content" by Micah Jeffrey



MICAH JEFFREY

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns He/Him

State Washington

Instagram @micah_.life

Bio Hello! My name is Micah. I am a Black transmasculine dancer and choreographer born and raised in Seattle, Washington. My favorite dance styles are Krump (the style I'm doing here), hip hop choreography, and house. I am also a college chemistry student, a podcast host, and occasionally I draw. Art and especially dance are very important to me as they allow me to showcase my authentic self and meet others like me!



"KING SIRÈNE" by Krow Sirène Iroquois



KROW SIRÈNE IROQUOIS

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns

He/Him

Age

21

Instagram

@krowkaine17

State

Alabama

Bio

Krow is an androgynous trans man that specializes in arts such as literature, sketching, graphic design, and website design. He also enjoys speaking and sharing his story with other people, in hopes that anyone who hears his voice may be inspired by his perseverance to be their best selves. He is the primary graphic design artist for Montgomery Pride United, a queer-led organization in his hometown, and also a key developer behind Montgomery's only active LGBT+ youth group.

frat boys and their little trans brother

never thought i'd praise this basement, these boys,
hands full of wishes and business proposals, hard back chairs
turned to walls that have never failed to cave to their future.
believe me, if you told me seven years after the Saturday i nearly died
for the first time i'd have electric like this, the stifling sharp current of belonging
inside a body and not beside it, i wouldn't.
bless the music and the cheap alcohol, journalism majors
and DEI training. bless the deep bass and chapter meetings,
parties and former presidents. bless the blonde boy with the icarus tattoo,
the boy in batman mask who teaches me to dap the brothers up, every
business major who envies the freedom of english but will never admit that they
are searching for something they've only seen in the dark. i love grabbing
water for women and pointing out the obvious slashes of bathroom lights,
how nobody ever looks at me twice like i don't belong to be there, how long after
i leave my presence lingers and they swear they can see the outline of me
in the dark.

"Frat Boys and their Little Trans Brother"
by Paris Woodward- Ganz



**PARIS WOODWARD-
GANZ**

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns

He/Him

Age

19

Instagram

@parisofthedark

State

Oregon

Bio

Paris Woodward-Ganz is an actor, poet, and spoken word artist. He is a junior at the University of Oregon where he studies English and Creative Writing. Events he has spoken at include protests, the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, the Racing to Change Exhibit at the Lane County History Museum, and the Black Excellence Gala. He has also acted, holding roles such as Ann Atwater in Best of Enemies, Bernadette in "Where You Lead", and Romeo in Romeo and Juliet. You can find him on instagram and twitter @parisofthedark.



"A Godly Change" by Mak Petersen



MAK PETERSEN

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns

He/Him

State

North Carolina

Instagram

@maknpetersen

Age

17

Bio

Mak is a high school junior who is very passionate about performing arts. He is currently in the honors choir and does honors theatre at school, and he loves writing song lyrics and short plays for fun. Singing and acting make him happier than anything else, and he aims to continue doing musical theatre in the future to inspire others.



"We Shine Together" by Dave



DAVE

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns Zey/It/He

Age 15

Instagram @ryujiinxx

State New York

Bio

I'm an African-American and Trinidadian, transmasc gay male with a love for all things creatures (mainly reptiles, bugs, and monsters with these traits)! I'm currently working hard to get a career in some field of biology, preferably paleontology, herpetology, or conservation biology, but while I'm not busy with my studies and athletics I push myself to improve my art and animation skills!



"Head in the Rainbow" by Forever Powell



FOREVER POWELL

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns

Any Pronouns

State

Florida

Instagram

@appledrawslol

Age

16

Bio

Hello. My name is Forever. I am an artist and an animator. I began drawing when I was three and I started animating when I was ten. I want to share my creativity with the world and show people how much I love what I do.

This woman is supposed to be heard

She is supposed to be earned

She is the worth of a risk

That even burns!

She's Holy even without the grail

Because she's a HALO

A beautiful art

not even Da Vinci

Could capture in

a 1000 strokes

She's a woman of many

backgrounds Some cultural, Some

judicial

Yet, I bet you won't check her

Because she's the woman

One man can drool and dread

over in 60 seconds

She's divine and that's a crime

To the emotions of an

egotistical man that

loves to whine.

"This Woman" by Lyric Gibson



LYRIC GIBSON

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns She/They **Age** 23 **State** Texas

Bio I am Lyric Gibson. A 23-year-old entrepreneur, dancer, public figure, and more. Beneath all of her talents and skills, she has felt a call in her life to speak a "gospel" to a mass of individuals. "I have experienced a tumultuous upbringing which ultimately led to my life's journey as a transwoman. Moreover, I have learned how to transmute lessons into lectures. Life Lectures. Aside from my work as a public speaker and Trans Youth Advocate, I find myself (daily) teaching humans how to be themselves authentically, regardless of their story."



"Pictures Last Longer" by Lucas Allen



LUCAS ALLEN

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns He/Him

Age 16

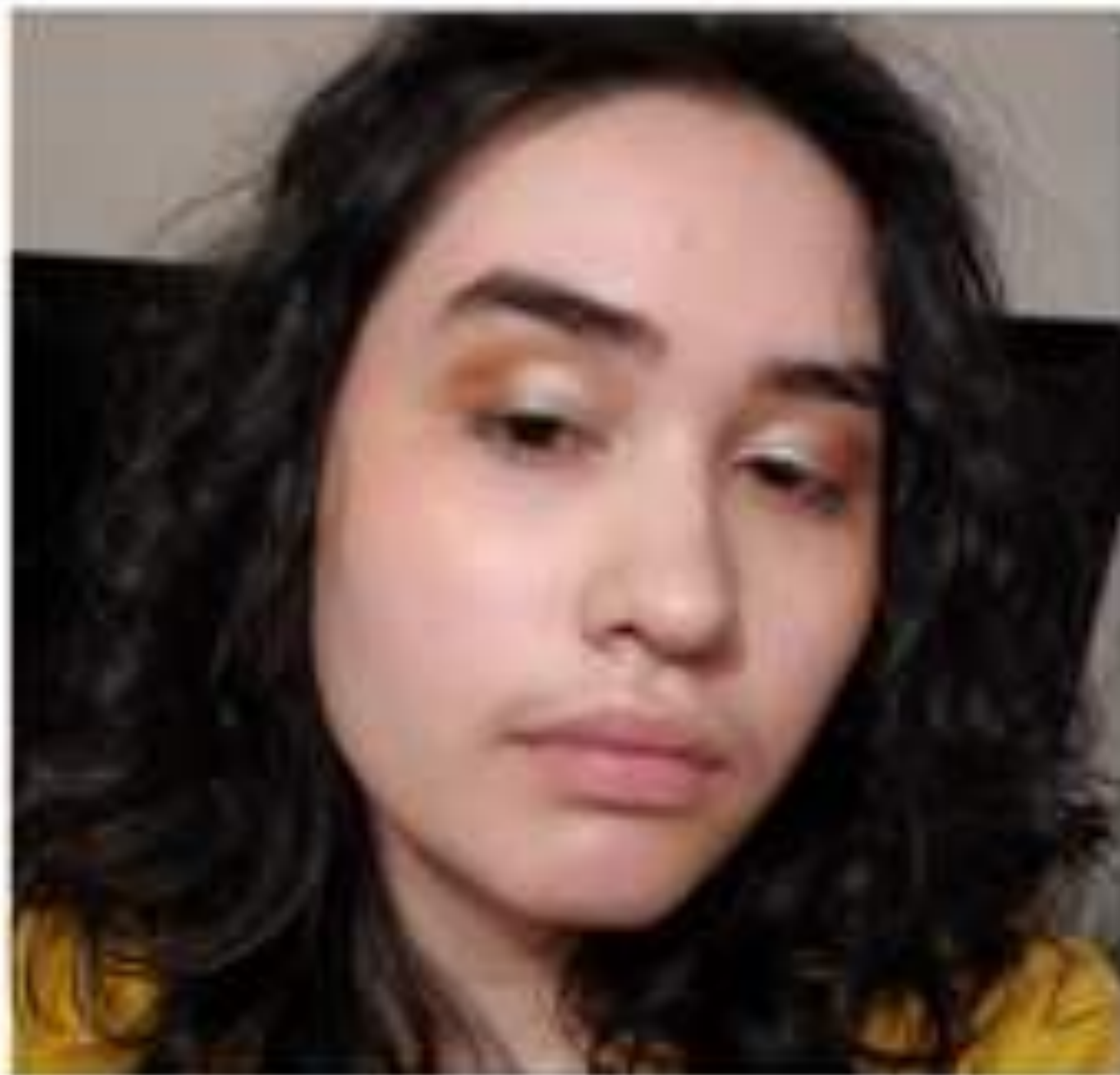
Instagram @loshialoha

State Illinois

Bio Hi, I'm Lucas, a traditional and digital artist in my sophomore year of high school, determined to be in the moment, and for my art to represent that! I love nature, specifically the beach and other large bodies of water, cooking, and ice skating!



"Childhood Bedroom" by Harvey Reyes



HARVEY REYES

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns He/Him

Age 22

Instagram @astrocomplx

State Texas

Bio

A Blaxican country boy trying his best to be a diamond in a rhinestone world. I'm a big fan of dolls, comic books, baseball, and eclecticism.



"Caramel Camellia Queers" by Gabriele Jones



GABRIELE JONES

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns None/They/He **Age** 17

State South Carolina (Natchez-Kusso)

Instagram @humblee.bumblebee.bee

Bio Being an artist and agriculture fanatic, Gabriele never turns down a chance to recreate the natural beauties that surround them in the southeastern US. Whether they're portraying marginalized pride through bold brushstrokes or enriching their work with tints that tantalize their followers, this artist strives to honor progressive movements and Nature, "the mother of all things", as sanctuaries defended by warriors who fight for the hopeless and vulnerable. As he continues to promote prosperity and public-heartedness in America, Gabriele hopes that his creations serve as a reminder that all noble beings are masterpieces worthy of thriving on this earth.

“In this America-“

He wants to talk, while she listens
But it's like barking at a tree
while the actual squirrel
Runs away with your nut.
It's absurd , and it's unjust!
Cover it with a blank stare,
They'll just say it's your attitude.
The world goes round
As she fluctuates her reverse frown.
Up and down up and down,
The hills and speed bumps of life...
Have to go over and through
To get to that place
Where it's over and through.
He says that she says this
What does it mean?
Corruption on earth is what
They believe it is,
The image of his face takes up the space in his heart,
While her brain rambles day in and nights outs.
She prays a miracle will rescue her from this pit of ignorance.
Because being with him she has learned that we have to live
with ignorance to know what not to do in the world of success.

“In this America” by Lyric Gibson



"Nirvana 'Thee Ma'Dam'" by Lyric Gibson



"Experimenting 3" by Jay D.



JAY D.

MEET

THE

ARTIST

Pronouns They/Them

Age 14

State North Carolina

Bio Hi, I'm Jay, a musician and writer. I started making music when I was eleven and now am trying to use my music to uplift marginalized and oppressed voices.



Follow us on IG @ourtranstruth