

SEEN

A BLACKBIRD REVOLT ZINE





The background is a solid yellow color. In the top right corner, there are several blue circles of varying sizes, resembling stars or bubbles. A blue, textured cloud shape is positioned to the right of the text. On the left side, there is a large, dark, textured shape that looks like a planet or a shadow. At the bottom, there are several thick, orange diagonal lines. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue crescent moon shape.

**LIKE ALMOST
EVERYTHING
WE MAKE, THIS
IS BY AND FOR
BLACK PEOPLE.**

***Others can read and find something in it. But if you read, enjoy, or use without centering Black people, you have appropriated and manipulated its purpose. Don't fuck with our art. You've fucked with us enough.**



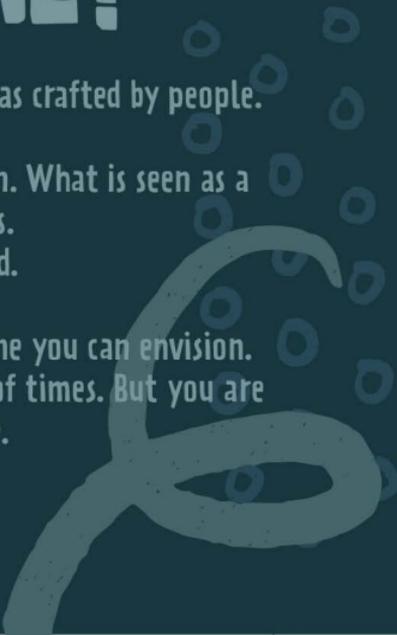


"Our radical imagination is
a tool for decolonization,
for reclaiming our right
to shape our lived reality."
—adrienne maree brown

WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

You are standing in a future that was crafted by people.
Where we are is no accident.
What is seen as broken is not broken. What is seen as a
bad year is the result of bad systems.
Systems designed. Systems envisioned.

This zine is about the future. The one you can envision.
You are here. In the most difficult of times. But you are
still brilliant. You are still creative.
You can and do create.



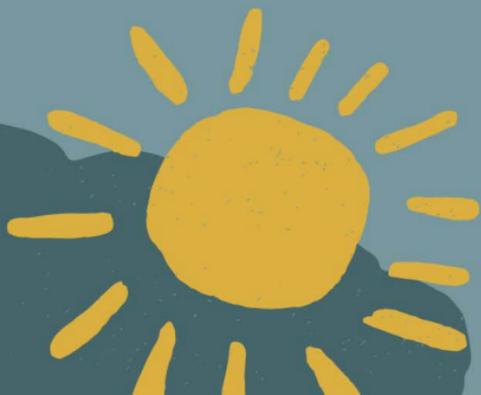


**“Never be limited by
other people’s limited
imagination.”
—Dr. Mae Jamison**



BREATHE

Take a moment.
Stand, sit, or stay right where you are.
Close your eyes if you feel comfortable.
Try taking a deep, steady breath in through your nose.
And slowly release that breath from your mouth.
Repeat these breaths.
No pressure to do it perfectly.
We just want you to breathe. Always.









"If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive."

DRAW

Pick a random object.

Draw it every day this week.

If you've got sculpting material or building blocks, try making the object.

FREE WRITE

Write for 5 minutes without stopping.

Write about a day in which all your needs are met and you can move through the day the way you want.

What would you do on that day?

Who would you spend time with?

Where would you go?



"There is no greater
agony than bearing an
untold story inside you."

—Dr. Maya Angelou

NOTICE YOUR BODY

You can

Notice your breaths. Take a deep breath.

Notice your jaw. Is it clenched?

Notice your shoulders and your arms? Slowly
lift your shoulders and roll them back.

Can you feel your heart beating?

Notice your chest.

What about your stomach? Can you
feel it? How does it feel?

What about your legs? How about your feet?

Can you feel the earth below you?

Take deep breaths.





**"Wanna fly, you got to
give up the shit that
weighs you down."
—Toni Morrison**

FREE WRITE

Write for 5 minutes without stopping

Write about the future you want to see, the one you want to live in.

What does your neighborhood look like?

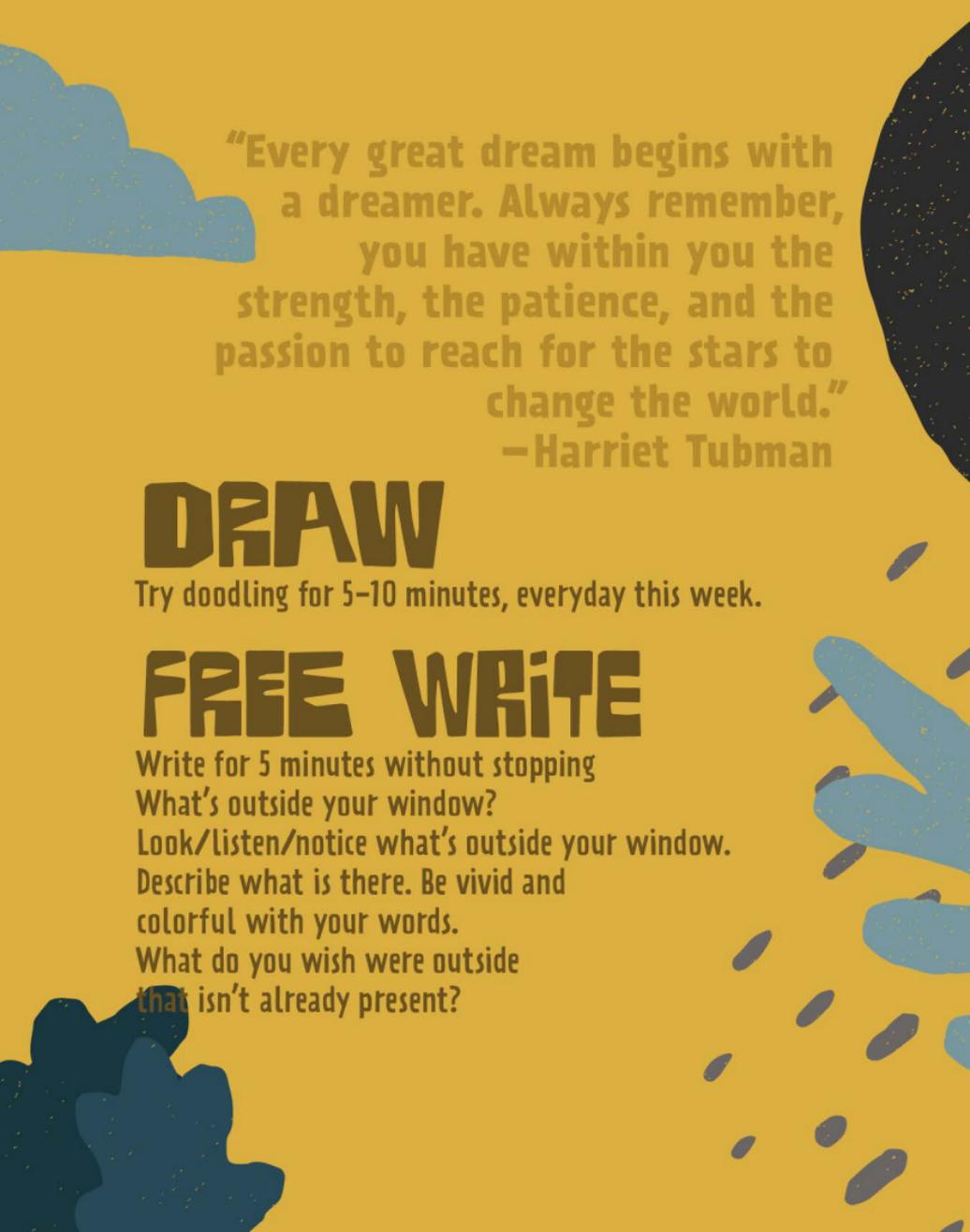
What do people do for "work"?

What art would you create?

What new things would you try?







"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
—Harriet Tubman

DRAW

Try doodling for 5–10 minutes, everyday this week.

FREE WRITE

Write for 5 minutes without stopping

What's outside your window?

Look/listen/notice what's outside your window.

Describe what is there. Be vivid and colorful with your words.

What do you wish were outside that isn't already present?





"I was attracted to science fiction because it was so wide open. I was able to do anything and there were no walls to hem you in and there was no human condition that you were stopped from examining."
—Octavia Butler

FREE WRITE

Write for 5 minutes without stopping
You're on a different planet.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What do you notice?

What do you feel?



This content is a collection of simple practices we use or have used. Although we created and designed this zine, we don't own the knowledge that we're sharing. These things were shown to us and shared with us throughout our years. We are grateful to our teachers and guides who have helped shape who we are. We wish it were possible to name them all but the list would span books and generations in length. If you're reading this, you're probably one of those names or you one day will be.

Thank you for creating. Keep designing the future.

Share what you've written, drawn, or created. Send your creations to SeenZine@blackbirdrevolt.com.



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