

Virtual Gonzo Zine Library

Spring 2020 Edition

Kit O'Connell

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kitoconnell@pobox.com

Welcome to the Virtual Gonzo Zine Library. The VGZL is a quarterly zine reading list and miniature zine distro. A few times per year, I curate some of my favorite zines -- zines that I think everyone should be reading, including myself.

Find more zines I've written or selected at <https://kitoconnell.com/zines/>

This .zip contains files from the Spring 2020 edition of the VGZL. These are the **main selections** from this edition of my reading list. The files included are:

Banner Drops, Stencils, & Wheatpastes

This zine by ACTIVATE Grand Rapids is wonderful introduction to the art of street propaganda. I especially love the idea of reclaiming objects in public spaces and turning them into info booths. An old newspaper kiosk can become a zine library or a place to leave food and other supplies.

Sadly, ACTIVATE seems to be gone, but their great little zine lives on.

Creating Fabric Masks

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief is a national network of radicals providing volunteer relief in the wake of disasters, whether it's flooding or a pandemic. They've created a stack of fabulous resources for people trying to help their neighbors during this crisis. For the main Zine Library selection, I picked this great zine on creating and using masks. It includes some simple plans for making your own fabric masks.

I've included several other zines in the Bonus Materials for this edition of the Library. Be sure to help out MADRelief if you can, with your time or money. Or use their work as a model to create mutual aid in your community.

Homepage: <https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/>

Donations: <https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/donate/>

Mutual Aid, Trauma & Resiliency

The Jane Addams Collective is an anarchist collective of social workers, psychologists, and others working out of New York. I think this zine is a vital resource for coping with trauma, especially because it looks at trauma from *both* the individual and community perspective.

Homepage: <https://janeaddamscollective.org/>

Our Grief Is A Starting Point In The Fight Against Fascism

"It isn't simply that time and the news cycle have sped up due to so-called communication technologies. It's that we're in the crosshairs of history. That history is being written on bodies—bodies that are piling up; sometimes our bodies, or those of people we love."

This zine began as a short essay by Cindy Milstein, published by Truthout. Eff Charm turned it into this lovely, moving little brochure. The essay is copyright truthout.org, and reprinted with permission in the Zine Library with permission.

Milstein wrote this essay in response to brutal white supremacist violence, and I feel like its themes have sadly only grown more relevant as we grapple with a pandemic under a white supremacist president. As I write this, we're seeing increasing mobilizations of fascists in the streets demanding an end to social distancing, and they're clearly turning into a dangerous death cult amid our suffering. This zine is about harnessing our grief to fight back.

Truthout does amazing journalism regularly. Support them and share their work widely

Homepage: <https://truthout.org/>

Donate: <https://truthout.org/give-monthly/> (one time donations also possible)

Stop the Sweeps

Austin has an incredible history of activism and self-advocacy by homeless people. At one point, a community of people without homes actually occupied a barge on town lake, the main waterway through Austin, to force 24/7 awareness of their need for housing. Decades later, Stop the Sweeps continues that tradition.

This zine documents the first several weeks of Stop the Sweeps work, and includes a fascinating statement of principles which I think could guide almost any activist group in forming their own similar statement.

Despite a promise to put the homeless in shelter, the city has done little to help them through the pandemic, as of this writing. Donate to help Stop the Sweeps if you can.

I'm grateful to the Stop the Sweeps collective for granting explicit permission to include this zine in my Virtual Gonzo Zine Library.

Online: <https://facebook.com/stopsweepsatx/> or [@StopSweepsATX](#) on Twitter

Fundraiser: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ATXshelters>

Donations: [\\$stopthesweepsatx](#) (Cashapp)

Tough Mind, Soft Heart

This is easily one of my favorite zines I've read recently, and I'm still rereading and digesting its contents. Created by an author named stinging nettles, this zine hasn't been shared in many places before now. I'm very proud to include it in the Spring edition of the Virtual Gonzo Zine Library.

The title comes from a quote by Sophie Scholl, a member of Germany's White Rose group, who was executed by the nazis for distributing antifascist propaganda. stinging nettles proposes an antifascism that is both fierce and nurturing. They are reclaiming the concept of "love" as a tool in antifascist struggles, without weakening our resolve to beat back fascism, racism, patriarchy and white supremacy by any means necessary.

I asked stinging nettles to introduce themselves and they wrote:

"stinging nettles is a queer disabled femme from various places in the so-called soon-to-be-former United States of America learning about and practicing justice, compassion, and rage in due measure. they don't have an internet presence at the moment but feel free to email them at stingingnettles@riseup.net to chat!"

In lieu of receiving direct donations, stinging nettles asks that you support Antifa International. Their fund helps support legal aid for antifascist prisoners, and when you donate you can also get cool buttons and stickers. I've included "Destroying White Nationalism," a zine by Antifa International, in the Bonus Materials for the Spring Edition of the Virtual Gonzo Zine Library.

Homepage: <https://antifainternational.tumblr.com/>

Donations: <https://fundrazr.com/51Od0e>