

The Politics of

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a Brackish Daughters zine

Foreword

We will begin with the obvious: shelter is a universal need, necessary for survival.

There are many kinds of shelter. For instance, a reader may seek shelter in a book, a zine, an anthology.

At their best, anthologies can serve as shelter for a range of experiences. The form enables different writers' voices to sit in conversation together.

Anthologies are a political genre. They have been published adjacent to nearly every justice movement. Creating an anthology is one way to convey a conversation about an issue or community.

Anthologies, though, are limited by the extent of the publisher's network. And not everyone has the opportunity, energy, or resources to write poems, send them out, and wait to hear back.

The North Miami apartment from which this zine was dreamed is forty miles from a site in which our government is jailing children. Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, where a mass shooting happened this spring, is forty miles in the other direction. Along the warming coast of Florida, the ocean encroaches onto land, poised to disappear cities governed by questionable caretakers.

When the world learned about the young immigrant children who have been forcibly separated from their parents and jailed, many survivors reminded us that forced “shelter” is nothing new.

People of Japanese-American descent imprisoned in internment camps, Native survivors of boarding schools, families suffering through the system of mass incarceration, and trans, queer, and disabled people who have been institutionalized are just a few examples of groups who’ve been targeted with forced “shelter.”

How do we collectively reimagine a desirable shelter where there is room for everyone, where everyone can live?

For us, the poems in this anthology map the curvature of relevant and complicated political questions. Each poem grinds a unique texture, relaying important perspectives within the anthology’s architecture.

This book is an attempt to understand a worthy topography, to locate shelter that is un-imposed.

These are voices of resistance.

Freesia McKee & Jade Kastel
North Miami, August 2018

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