Rise above All
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Artwork and Poetry by:

Cha Aye
Zhao Zhong Chen
Luz Colon
Octavia Cooper
Tahje Cooper-Leggett
Nina Gadson
Jinying Gao
Carolina Gomez
Amanda Gozali
Brianna Hill
Sienne Jackson
Jetsonorama aka Chip Thomas
Yao Jiang

Torrian Jones
Jia-Yi Kang
Baohua Ke
Sarah Kolker
Yaxia Li
Vicki Lin
Yu Qing Pei
Ursula Rucker
Nile Shareef-Trudeau
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Washika Tanha
Justin Zhonghui

Designed by:
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The Covid-19 pandemic has called on each of us to invest in society’s collective health and well-being. The simultaneous racial justice uprisings have pushed all Americans to examine the inequities built into our country, and has expanded and reignited the struggle for a just society. Artists Jetsonorama and Ursula Rucker have brought Mural Arts students on a journey through the past to look at previous pandemics and civil rights struggles, to fuse the ideas of health and wellness with justice and equity. Together with students and teaching artists Sarah Kolker and Carolina Gomez, they created this zine that focuses on public health awareness and dreams for a better future. It includes artwork and poetry from each student, the teaching artists, and from the artists themselves.

Both Jetsonorama and Ursula Rucker are artists who have used their practices for social justice. Using the power of poetry, positivity, and imagery generated by Mural Arts Education students, Jetsonorama has created a mural with Rucker that celebrates her home neighborhood of Germantown. Poetry from students and community members surrounds Rucker’s portrait. Rucker is pictured shouting through a megaphone a poem that inspires empowerment, peace, resilience, and love. This zine is a companion to the mural in Germantown.

This publication is also published online at muralarts.org.
When you see through everything, losing is more stressful than owning.

- Zhonghui Zhang

Bis Bis!

- Nile Shareef- Trudeau
- Jiayi Kang

- Tahje Cooper Legget
- Octavia Cooper

- Yaxia Li
Bright light in the dark
Smile, joy, love, all in our face
Hey friend, how are you

- Bachue Ke
- Nina Gadson

- Torrian Jones
- Yuqing Pei

- Sienne Jackson
- Brianna Hill

- Washika Tanha
Charm within her eyes
Bring the delight warm day
Much brighten my world

- Cha Aye
Passion Portrait:
Self Portrait
ALL COLORS ARE BEAUTIFUL
Come, come, come
Hello, hello, hello
Ocean of passion
Red, blue, yellow
We’re all the same
Fires that are burning up pumping our hopes up
As we collide to break this never ending cycle
Stop colorism we all bleed the same
Set free all the worries we just want peace
In the end of the day we’re all humans

- Amanda Gozali
Ahu Ahu Ahu
My house.
Come to eat
Watch Movies
Blue Blue Blue
Their views on other
Problem
Learning
Respecting other beliefs
Traditional Bangl
Healthcare.

Washika Tanha.
Student Mental health in this quarantine
The skin upon is a threat to me. A

If I can't write or speak then who

I

These are my girl. Magic

If I can't write or speak then who

I
When my Feet touch the floor, and my fingers fold around each other like rose petals to a stem.
Brown skin entwined the blood of my bones, I made it by the skin of my teeth.
I wear my body all day long I’m in love with your disapproval.
I am in love with loving though they don’t love back, they close the doors to their hearts so we don’t look back.
I look back...But not to open the door, to reflect on the love.

Love it drives you crazy.
If you’re not open to it don’t patronize me, make it believable that you have heart, vast plain of—
make it enough to set us free.
I prop my finngers to write a freedom note.

— Nina Gadson
In the light waves of art
Existence is reasonable
When the fireworks are lit
Is when life begins to bloom
Until the end
But yesterday I was not like this
The world is not bad
Never got a compliment
Don't understand that truth is valuabl
God gave me eyes
Not just to show the ugliness
Can be in the dark
Light up a light
Beauty in the corner
Emit a faint light
Me with my friend
Play together everyday
My friend is my phone

- Zhonghui Zhang
Hurry up
Pouring rain, pouring rain, pouring
Downtown
Red, red, red, red, red
Laugh
Everyone needing a fair chance
They make me want to push harder
I care about inequality
Not really
Im black! So my history showed me the world needs a little more work

- Brianna Hill
TIME TO TAKE ACTION

DON'T!

DO!
Were you painting a ghost
Birds singing birds singing birds singing birds
singing birds singing
Mall
Red, red, red, red, red
Painting
Climate change
Against protest against protest against protest
against protest against protest
Global warming
Best friend, best friend, best friend,
best friend, best friend
Nature

- Cha Aye
Scares
Purple, purple, purple, purple, purple
Shenyang
Sing my favorite song
Melody, melody, melody
Im passionate about music, art, sky, moon, my idols
mom annoys me, be patient
Online news
My uncle keeps in justice everytime
chinese thousands of history makes me learn traditional things

– Yuqing Pei
It's always the little things
I've been staring at the sun too long
Are we burning up?

- Yaxia Li
Ha ha ha
blue blue blue blue blue blue
Is that the reflection of sky or the Reed Flute Caves lights?
she comes to embrace me
to make me stronger, to ignite my fire
I can not see the truth
Is there a light shine on me?
where is my fire? Does it still care about people?
What am I doing? writing this poem?
I am that fire

- Yao Jiang
Make me laugh hahaha
Bling, Bling, Bling
My home...
Blue, blue, blue, blue, blue
Playing
My competitive games
Child's relationship can add more passion for parents
Older adults protest for social justice
NONONO
My history brings the experience of looking forward to future

- Zhonghui Zhang
We are missing a "n" that means

I need Freedom!
Freedom will not come
Today this year
Not ever
Though compromise and fear
I have as much right
As the other fellow has
To stand
On my two feet
And own the land
I want my freedom

- Jiayi Kang
Amazingly fresh
Brightly colourful to you
Surprisingly New

— Tahje Cooper Legget
I say we are girls
We mean our pay should based on strive
Not the ponytail make a half price
To many shapes of women bodies
Free to make decision
Married or don’t marry
Skirts or T-shirt
Xs to XXL
I still believe in the possibility of equality
a world where there is no apathy
And happiness isn’t in darkness.

– Yaxia Li
Say No To Plastic
Where am I
Stand under the sun
Embrace with the wind
Run in the field
This is my home
where keeps my laughter of play
where keeps my tear of hurt
where keeps my secret of growth
I climb up the highest mountain
Like a free bird wing spread
Enjoy every green
Home gives
Enjoy every footprint
I leave

- Jinying Gao
THROUGH ME
WEIRD huh?
THE SKY
Looks
Back at me,
more WONDER
THAN
Curiosity,
SURPRISE!!
The Clouds
yell, AS IF
They WERE
ME, my
EMBODIMENT
not
Soul,
I
LIKE how
in my
Mind,
in my Him
The Clouds,
Cloud
talk BACK
Lead Teaching Artist
Sarah Kolker
What am I? Chopped Liver?
Wha? wha? wha?
Jamacia west indies
Green, green, green, green, green
Go hiking with the family
Community support raised in community
Just and fair treatment
My fathers a rasta
Culturaly jewish

- Sarah Kolker
Summer snack

Fruit fresh from the land
vegan cheese and gluten-free
pretzals are yummy
Futurism
- Baohue Ke

- Sienne Jackson
- Yao Jiang

- Tahje Cooper Legget
Beautiful rocket
you are a white and need color
fly into deep space

Flaming Straight arrow
Reaching Higher and Higher
Exploring Dark Space

Justin

- Brianna Hill

- Zhonghui Zhang
Amanda Gozali

Sea of burning fires
Living in state full of fear
Extinguish all of this pain

- Amanda Gozali

Yaxia Li

Hurry and get ready
The universe
Put to catch within all your nights

- Yaxia Li
- Torrian Jones

- Jiayi Kang
- Jinying Gao

Wonders of Space Sparkling
in The Deft's Break Through Gravity

- Jinying Gao
Potatoes are fat. It makes people healthy and fat still its the taste!
- Washinka Tanha

Dripping Down it
Cheese like string yummy
Grilled, steamy, oh!
- Sienne Jackson

Chewy and crispy
A round slices of pepperoni
I want to eat it
- Yaxia Li

A cute circle bread
covered sweet chocolate
died cady son
- Yqing Pei
Hot and boiling sun
People putting sublock on
Ice creams and Ice blocks
- Zhaozhong Chen

When I taste it tingles, the other I savior
- Brianna Hill

red, white, blue cold neat
my ivory sweet summer treat I love nice water ice
- Tahje Cooper Legget

The heavenly taste
Unforgettable flavor
Cucumbers flavor
- Yao Jiang
Amazing Meatballs
Impeccable Flavoring
Cheap to eat and find

Goes well with round brown seed
In love with her everyday seeing pregnant yet shining.
Sweet caramel
wrap in every popcorn
sweet summer time

Haiku
A bowl of ice cream
Scoop a mouthful at a time
And cold snap ends thawed
HAiku, on these hot days
I devour snacks like this,
om nom nom nom.

Cold when it touches,
numb when you hold it for long,
slowly sweat in contact.
Fresh fruit ice cream yummy
Let's take a photo one two three
Oh no, it is melting

Summer Summer hot
Eating Cold watermelon
Cola with noodles
Morning began with a dance between sun and her shadows...
I am excited to learn what this new morning wants to teach me
I want to learn.
YES...i want to learn.
I think i feel like listening...and creating
YES!
I feel like listening...and creating.

I can hear many poems
funny poems
erudite poems
interesting poems
inspiring poems
challenging poems (poems that challenge others...and poems that challenge self)
100-word poems
or
17-syllable poems
full-of-new-things type poems
gaining-insight-and-wisdom type poems...

I hear music in the words...in the way the words are put together...i hear music with the poems...it’s all poetry

it is all poetry!
I see images in the words...the way the words connect together...i can see many ideas and details and pictures...it’s all poetry.
YES!
It is all poetry!

We can all be exciting
We can all be inspiring
funny...
interesting...
new...
wise...
wonderful...

We can all be...poems.
We ARE all poems.

beautiful, exciting, creative, thoughtfully and skillfully (with many edits along the way) written poems...

always building & becoming...
so let’s keep writing ourselves...

- Ursula Rucker
you have to find your own identity and you have to rely on your own strength to rise above all the nonsense.

- Eartha Kitt