

HOPE

By Jimmy Joyner

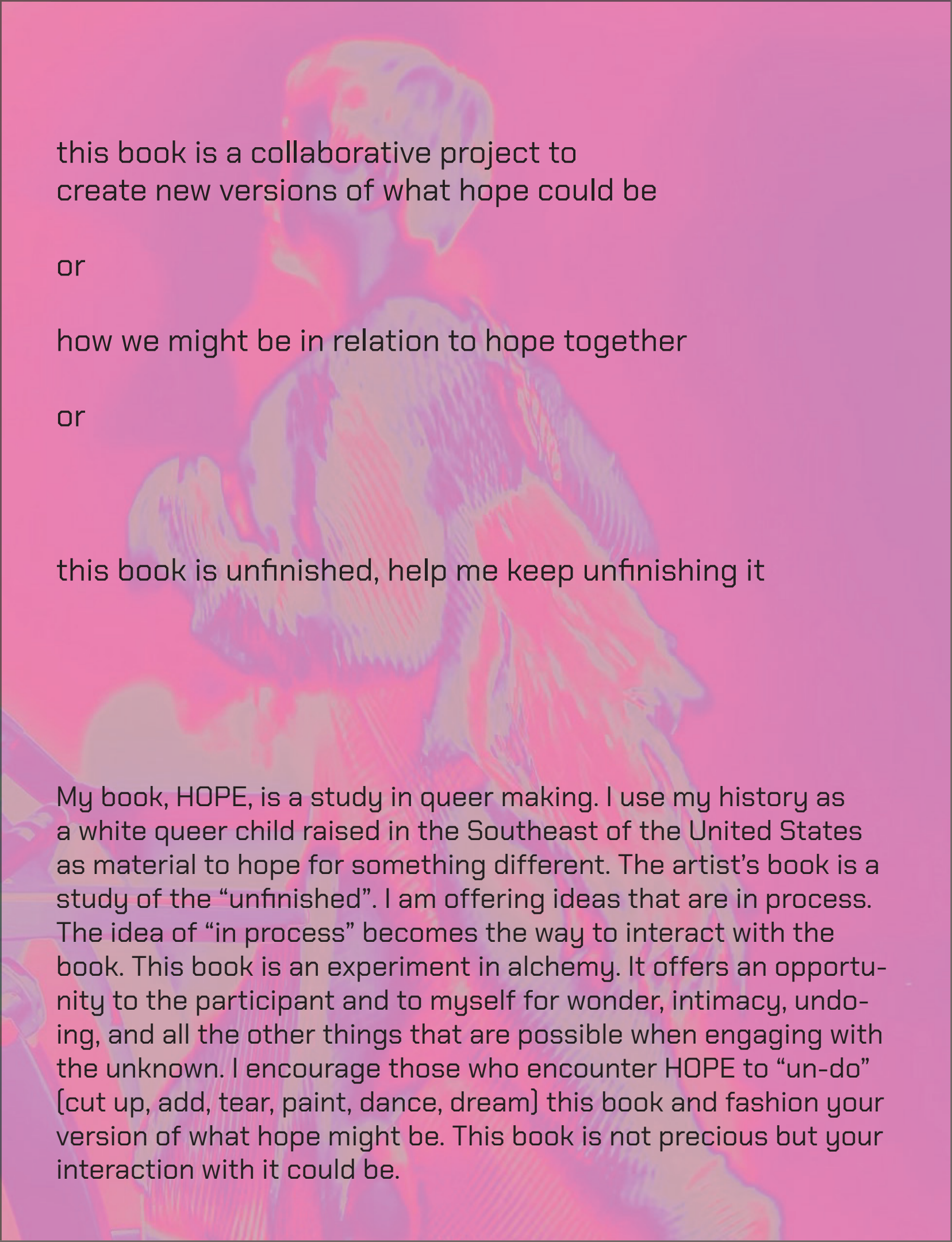
Yuchen Chang, thinking partner

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of
Fine Arts, Dance 2023

The University of the Arts, Philadelphia



HOPE



this book is a collaborative project to
create new versions of what hope could be

or

how we might be in relation to hope together

or

this book is unfinished, help me keep unfinished it

My book, HOPE, is a study in queer making. I use my history as a white queer child raised in the Southeast of the United States as material to hope for something different. The artist's book is a study of the "unfinished". I am offering ideas that are in process. The idea of "in process" becomes the way to interact with the book. This book is an experiment in alchemy. It offers an opportunity to the participant and to myself for wonder, intimacy, undoing, and all the other things that are possible when engaging with the unknown. I encourage those who encounter HOPE to "un-do" [cut up, add, tear, paint, dance, dream] this book and fashion your version of what hope might be. This book is not precious but your interaction with it could be.

H

H

HO

HOP

HOPE

6-27-23 w/ish

Free write starting now. Every moment is a now. To think that every moment needs to be captured feels like a quite colonial thought.

My bags still have not arrived + I have now gotten Air France involved. I hope they are able to help. Every situation has led to some "HOPE" that has been dashed. Or "HOPE" that has been empty. Empty HOPE? Like this container that was created + not filled w/ anything. Or maybe there is a version of HOPE that is created for manipulation. Like the person creating it knows that nothing is going to come of these promises that have created hope + yet they are able to move on with their life or get what they want because they have created hope by promising something. Maybe hope can be some sort of holding or capture device. A device which suspends time - a sort of "nowhere place".

↳ camera as a hope device -

HOPE



I think we are
only able to situate
ourselves when we
have decided where
a beginning and
ending is -

HOPE



If I am inside of
something & I do not
know where the edges
are —

HOPE



how do I know
where/who I am
inside of any
situation?

HOPE



HOPE



I am trying to
unmake myself

HOPE



something
different has
been made

HOPE



Hope is not a
thing

HOPE



grief will always
play a part in
something hoped
for

HOPE



HOPE



HOPE DESTROYS

HOLE















I began with an ask.

An ask for you to come here and be with me. For us to be amongst each other as I share. And as I hope.

I guess it began before that though.

A question I asked myself recently is “what does █████ look like?”

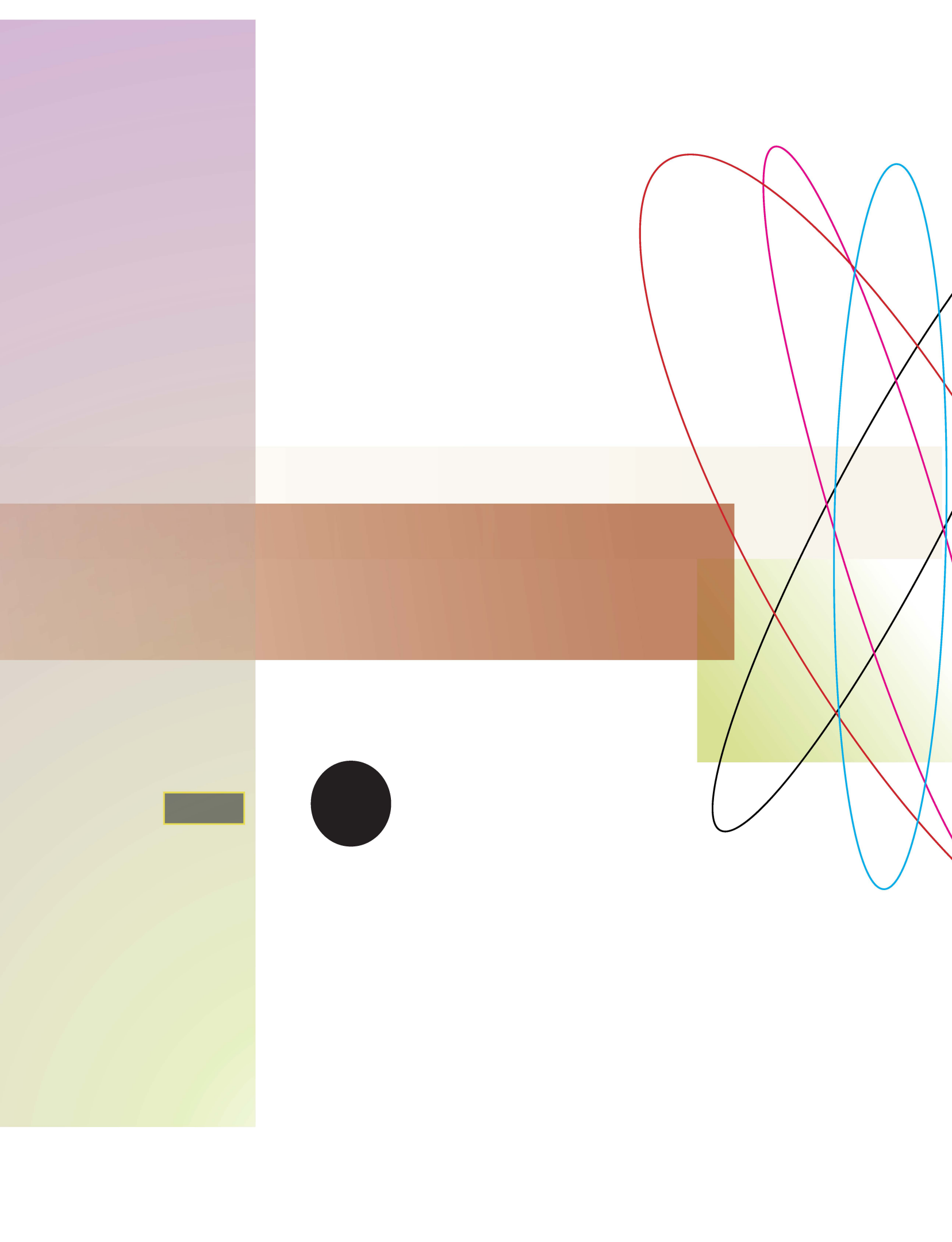
I think we all have something that comes to mind initially, But █████ may look different. So I responded to my query by recognizing where I am.

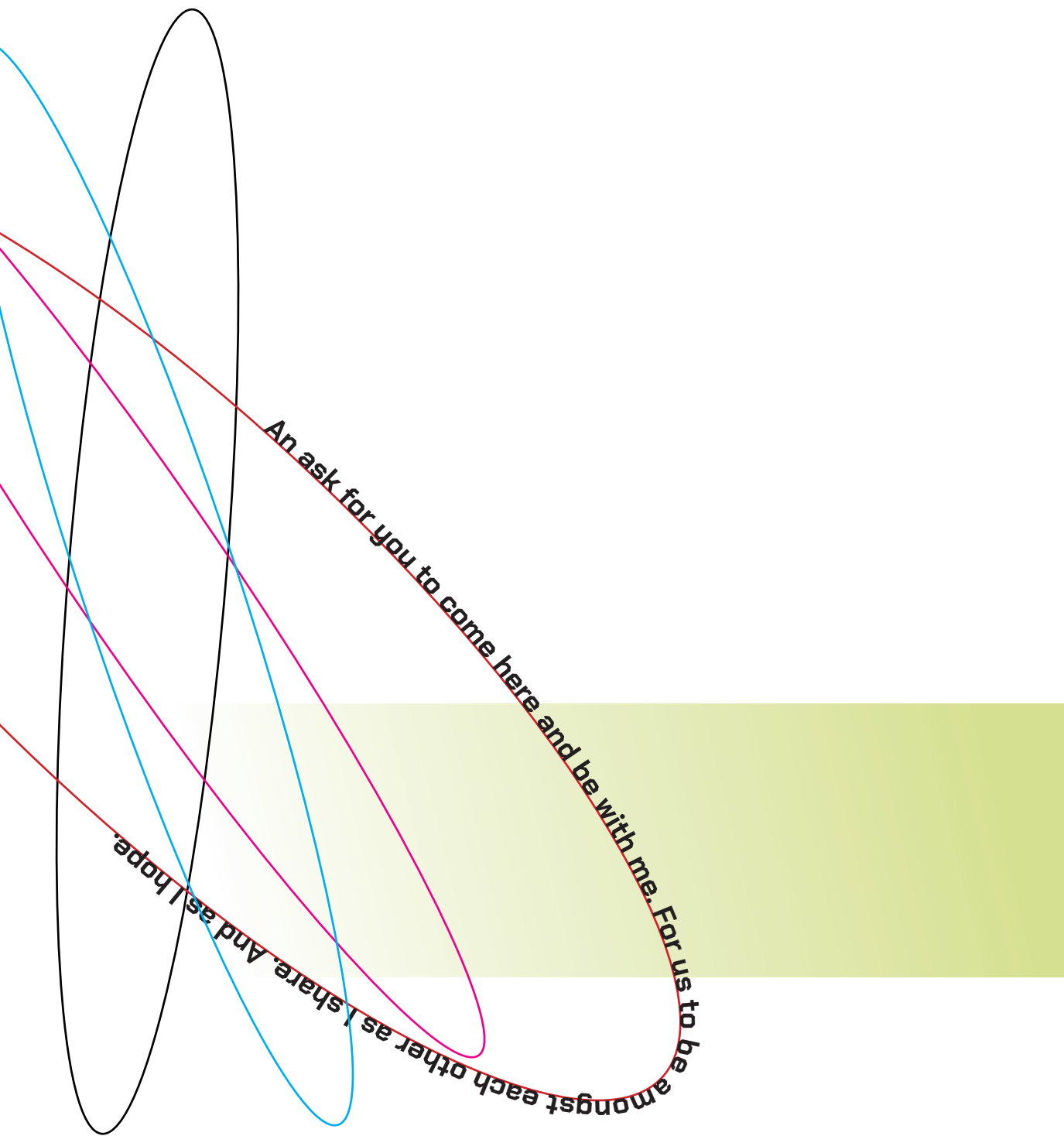
So this is what █████ looks like, for me, right now.

Maybe █████ is hope - maybe there is hope in
- maybe hope is hope - maybe hope as hopING - ing ing ing

A version of hope is a feeling felt in the now but that reaches towards a future. Sorta like queerness. This idea takes me out of a here and now - or maybe doesn't take me out of a here and now but displaces a becoming body ... that idea doesn't seem too hopeful though.

Where does hope leave us? Where does hope get us to? Hope and expectation? Hope might be confused with expectation but I believe it to be quite different. Hope as a sensing toward something without a signed contract. Or maybe hope as a sensing WITH.





An ask for you to come here and be with me. For us to be amongst each other as I share. And as I hope.

BIG

GIRL

I keep thinking and talking about hope in some directional sense. Like hope is over there somewhere.





+ OP E





I wonder about
people that have hope
for me. What are my
mother + father's hopes
for me? What are my
loved one's hopes for me?
Can you really hope for
someone else? It's like
some labor someone is
taking on on my behalf
but I didn't ask for that.



Are you hoping for
something for me
right now?







My work encompasses, but is not limited to embroidery,

storytelling, installation building, costume construction

I cultivate practices that are living and breathing and at living and breathing they must, at points, die/transition

Moving towards queerness

Investigating queerness and my desire to share a story with other are the engines for my practices.

How do I find new ways of being with people? I hope connection I seek to have with myself and others is support, and freedom. How can I allow myself to fall out into the world it puts a stamp on the idea, half

Construction as a vehicle that moves me towards

The layering of threads and textiles creates a porous continually step through and into a new version of the final manifestation, but in the act of making a ritual, healing. With every needle threaded or text coming to life. I am coming into form. As I am cre

big love from this evening
this week i have been wondering much about the moment
and also queer...always queer/ing
everytime queer is named - that thing being named is not
or
queer as something that always slips from capture
eternally unlanding
the void? - I know...a bit of a jump
i have recently been thinking about queer as something
because queer is not hope or promise or a pot of gold at
performed with such vibrance and manyness not be any
maybe it is part of the human condition to reach or try for
deficiency as we have been taught - but failure as a try -
there. more concern with try
and maybe we try because we want...not because we th
ill keep trying

Reply

Forward

crochery, creature making, textile dying,

action, music making and dance.

and support me where I am. If my practices are
transform.

Jul 3, 2023, 12:14 AM (1 day ago)

and explore alternate ways of being with each
that I am in, whatever moment or time that is, and the feeling of the hold or container that the moment produces.

have to find new ways of being with myself. The
is one of chance and mystery, of trust and
be and search when at the moment I speak it
ting its birth and potential?

that is nothing. or queer that is this thing that isn't anything.
the end of the rainbow (utopia), but it is not demise or failure or negativity either. how can something that is
thing?

wards queerness.
something. in our effort to manifest this queer thing we are in continual failure. maybe not failure as a negative or
maybe again less concern with if we "get it" or "arrive to it" and more concern (care?) with how we are here...not

of myself. The importance does not solely live in
ink we will get it - and maybe we want because we hope -
face or a garment. The making is performance,
tile layered, the creature is informing me and
ating, I am being created.

I would like to acknowledge and send my eternal gratitude towards the many people involved in this project, there's no such thing as a solo.

I would like to thank Donna Faye Burchfield for her drive and consistency to find ways for the “what else” to manifest. I would like to thank Tommy DeFrantz for the wisdom and space and encouragement. I would like to thank my family and the people that support me every day. Nicole Johnson, Sean Nguyen-Hilton, and Nicholas Goodly, all extend me into spaces I didn't know existed and I know our souls have been entangled for a long time, what a gift. To Yuchen Chang, Ishamel Houston-Jones, Ben Pranger, and Emily Wexler for their vast knowledge and their thinking along with me. To Fly on a Wall, I am privileged to have a space in which I can experiment with ways of care and support for myself and others.

Images

Promotional image for performance of HOPE taken by Jimmy Joyner

Performance of HOPE taken by Nicole Johnson

Curtain images taken by Jimmy Joyner

Stills taken from a video of a performance of HOPE shot by Andie Knudson

“Scrapbook” images photographer unknown

Performance shot of “Cats in a Library” by Nicole Johnson

Performance shots of “Middle of Sumthing” by Christina Massad

