I BERTTITY BISRUPTION

IDENTITY DISRUPTION

for the risk takers

TO EXIST AND IDENTIFY AS A DISRUPTION OF SYSTEMATIC No Rivings

GONSTANTLY PUTS YOU ATRISKIN THEWORLD ARAUND YOU

To exist and identify as a disruption to systematic norms constantly puts you at risk in the world around you. Whether that leaves you feeling vulnerable or strengthens you, it is important to have the ability to confront that risk and disrupt the structure surrounding you.

Identity Disruption is a collection of stories told by people who feel that their identity disrupts the standards set by the society that surrounds them. I had conversations with each of them and discussed how they experience the risk that their disruptive identity may put them in. Then, each of them thought of an artifact that could help them confront the risk that they face or help others in similar situations. These artifacts stem from a range of themes around protection, pride, anger, and fear. The purpose of this is to show the ways that people of different backgrounds and experiences may face the world when they do not fit the Western standard of who and what they should be.

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they/them he/him

I'm a genderqueer, mentally ill, feminine-presenting sex worker of color.

I ARM THE STUFF OF CIS-NEUROTYPICAL NIGHTMARES

I carry myself with the knowledge that many people find my sheer existence profoundly disturbing to everything that they know and believe.

I know I only get one shot at this life.

MY DISRUPTION MAKES ME LOUBER

...than anyone else in the room 9 times out of ten and that thrill is what i live for.

My object is a baseball bat to hit straight people over the head with.

SHOCKPEOPLE WHONEEDTHE

and comfort those who see themselves in me.



they/them

I am non-binary so there frequently is no "place" as an option for me

This disruption makes me feel vulnerable. It is hard to find bathrooms.

I FEAR HOW I WILL BE GENDERED IN PUBLIC

I am willing to confront that risk but I also am aware that being trans-masc means that I am less of a target.

My object would be a gigantic pronoun prop to carry to make people face that I am here and that misgendering me won't make me leave.



he/him

Expressing my identity has put me at risk at different times in my life.

Growing up in a smaller, rural town in Oregon, I was pleasantly surprised to find a fair amount of acceptance from my peers when I can out at the age of 14.

GNENENT

... until I was outed to my family.

I was raised in a semi-religious household with parents who had been taught their whole lives that homosexuality was wrong. When they found out (I was outed by someone who knew me), I was terrified. My mom worried that my dad might hurt me, but it never came to that.

My mom came around over the next few years and is supportive now. I don't think she over apologized for what happened, but we have moved on and are close with each other - I know that she supports me no matter what.

Instead my dad ignored me for months and my mom tried to convince me I was going through a phase. I was eventually put in home school, with my phone and laptop taken away. I felt isolated and disconnected, and became depressed.

I would like to say the same is true for my dad but I don't think I've ever formally told him that I'm gay - the two of us have never had a conversation about it in the 10 years since he's known. My identity has rarely made me feel physically at risk, but...

I FEEL THAT IT JEOPARDIZED MY RELATIONSHIPS

I was never able to tell my grandma, with whom I was very close, this most basic part of who I am.

I am not able to talk to my dad about it. I don't know how long it remain a secret, how long it will be something I keep to myself.

Even my mom, who I'm very close to, knows very little about my personal life away from home or about my partner of over 3 years. It has felt many times as if there are

TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF FULL OF THE STATE OF THE STATE

The risk I feel the most is what would happen if I ever stopped boxing it up ...or what will happen if I never do. My identity has disrupted what was expected by my family and by the religion I was brought up in. It has disrupted the belief system that I was taught, that I still have engrained in my mind.

Though I don't believe those things anymore, it can sometimes feel contradictory

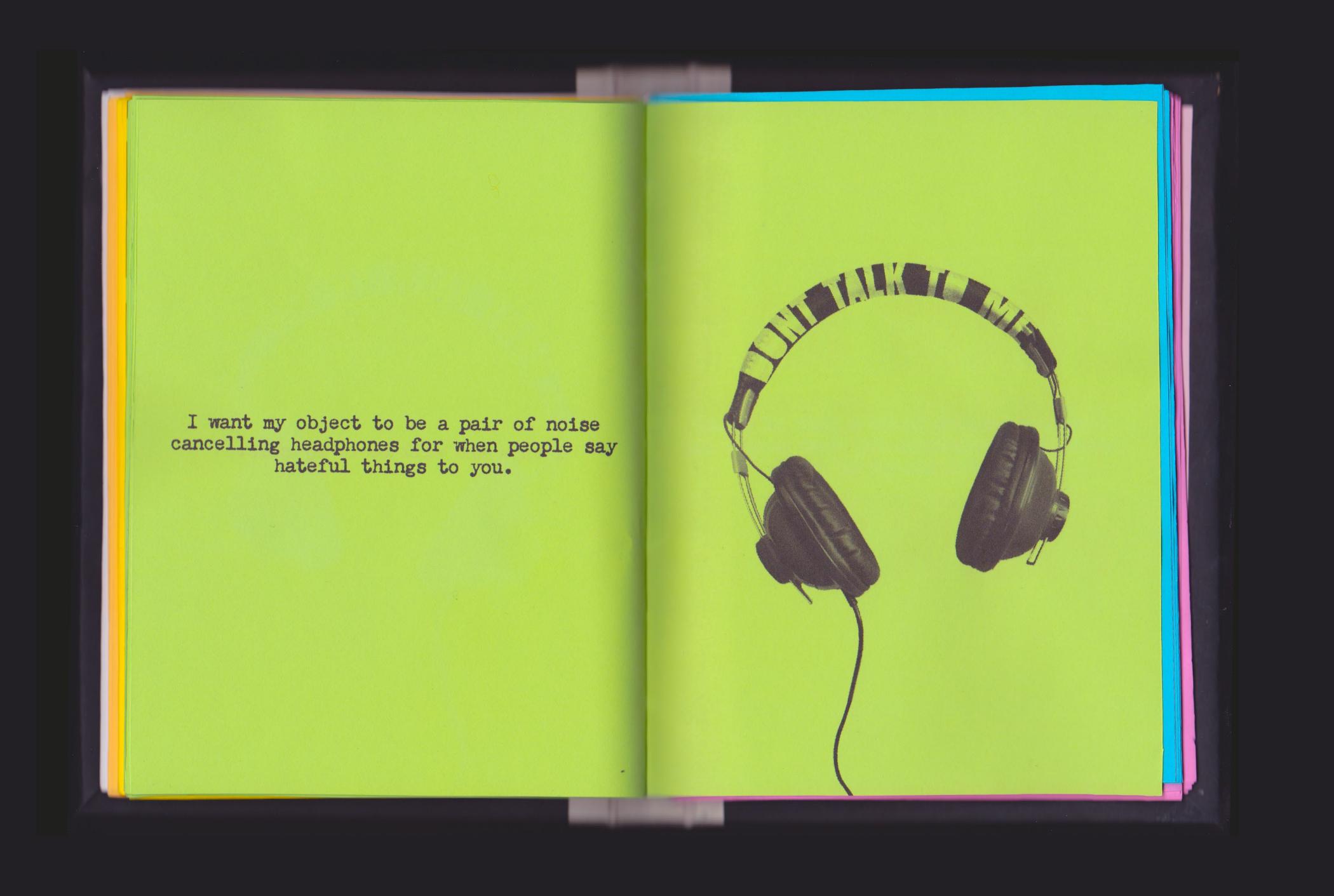
TO BE SOMEONE YOU WERE TAUGHT TO REJECT

It has made me feel both stronger and vulnerable at times.

thas made me feel very sad and out of place. It has made me feel separated from the people I care about.

But it has also made me a far stronger and more resilient person.

I know who the others around me are. I know who will be by my side.



YOU MADE THIS VERY AWKWARD

This person has chosen to remain anonymous. they/them

Not in a life-threatening way, but in a way that makes other people feel uncomfortable/not at ease I feel a bit at risk expressing my identity.

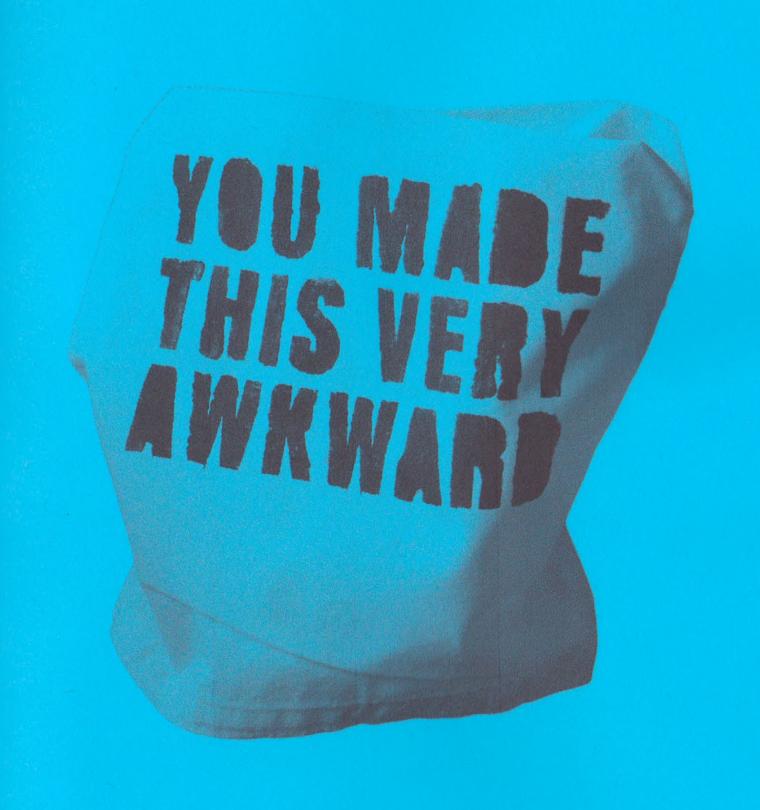
I'm also afraid of coming off as annoying or overbearing by asking that people

RESPECT MY GENDER IDENTITY

I'M A QUEER FIRST-GENERATION CHINESE-AMERICAN IMMIGRANT

That in itself is already a couple of non-assimilation factors.

My object would be a trash bag so I can pull it over my head every time someone misgenders me so they know that it's awkward and I have a place to hide because I feel like it's awkward.





he/him

There is a lot of aspects of my identity that I feel put me at a risk.

From my voice to the way I dress...

F

Even when walking with my partner, I feel extremely anxious holding his hand in public.

I am a visibly queer person, currently living in probably one of the most conservative towns in California.

I feel like I also break a lot of the "norms" in the mainstream gay community.

IAM SOMEONE HE IIII

and am very vocal about it.

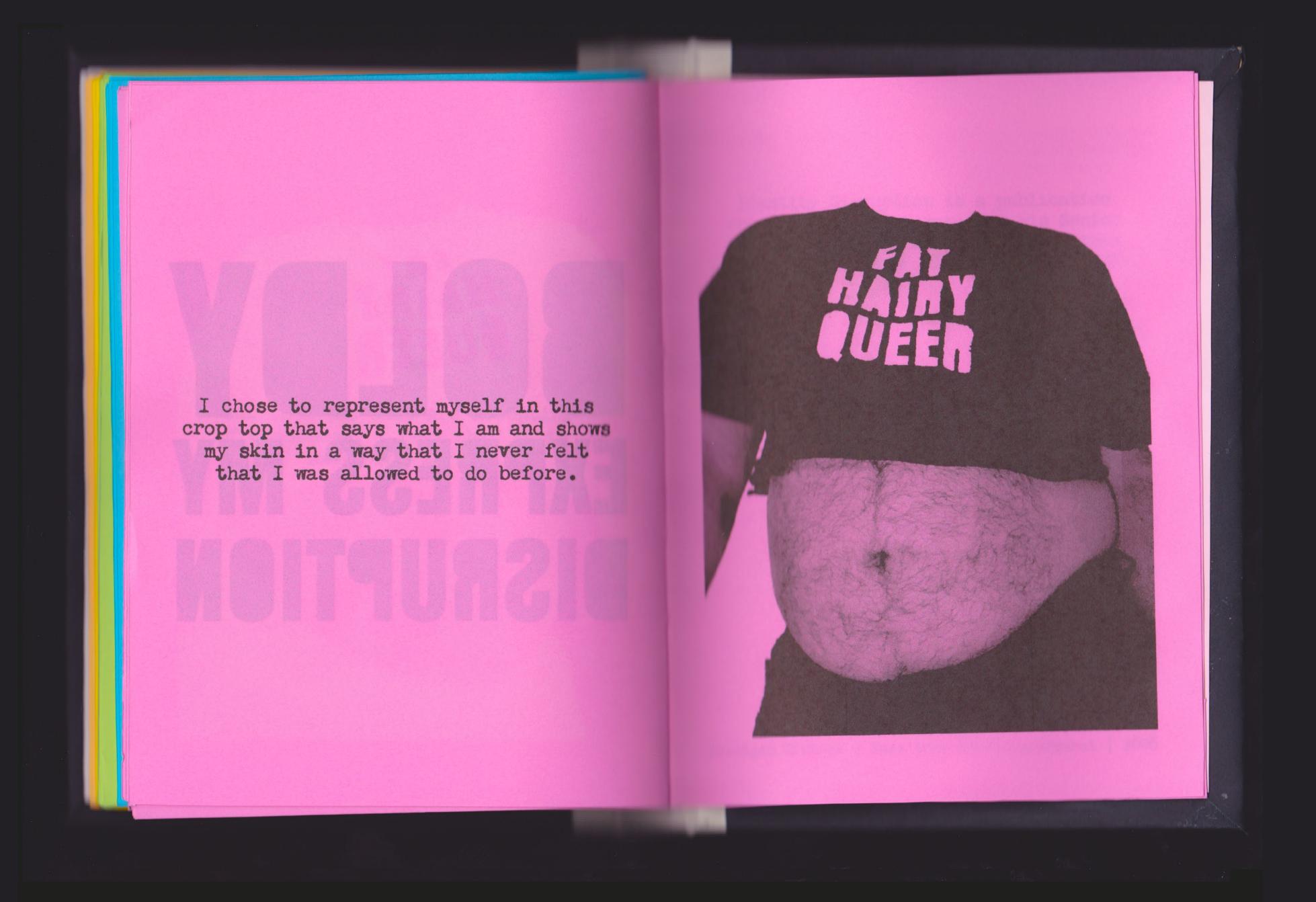
I have always been someone that wanted to have a less gender conforming presentation,

but have always felt that that was something only represented by thin gay men and wasn't for me.

When I'm in unsafe spaces I obviously feel a lot more vulnerable. I fluctuate from feeling vulnerable and strong by my disruption.

But in areas that are accepting of queerness, I feel that it is safer for me to

BOLDY EXPRESS MY DISRUPTION



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