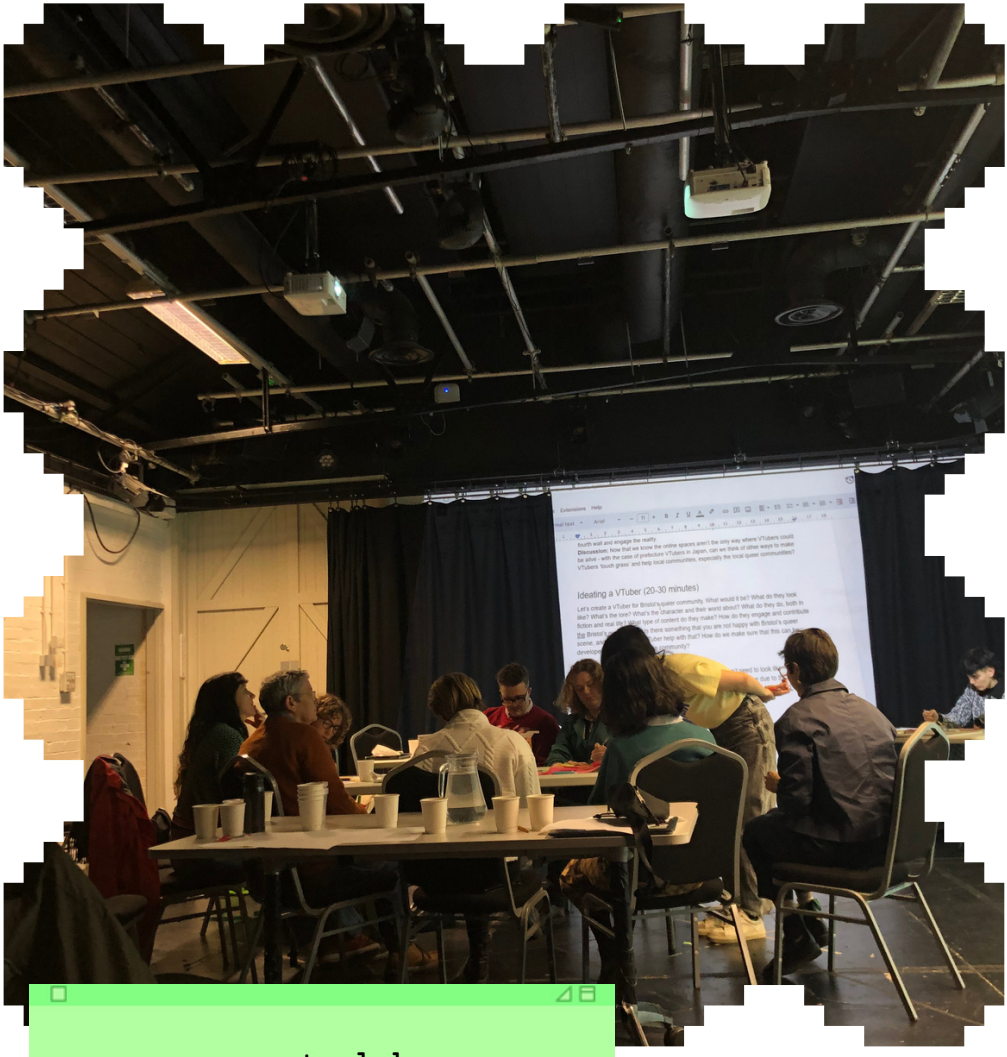
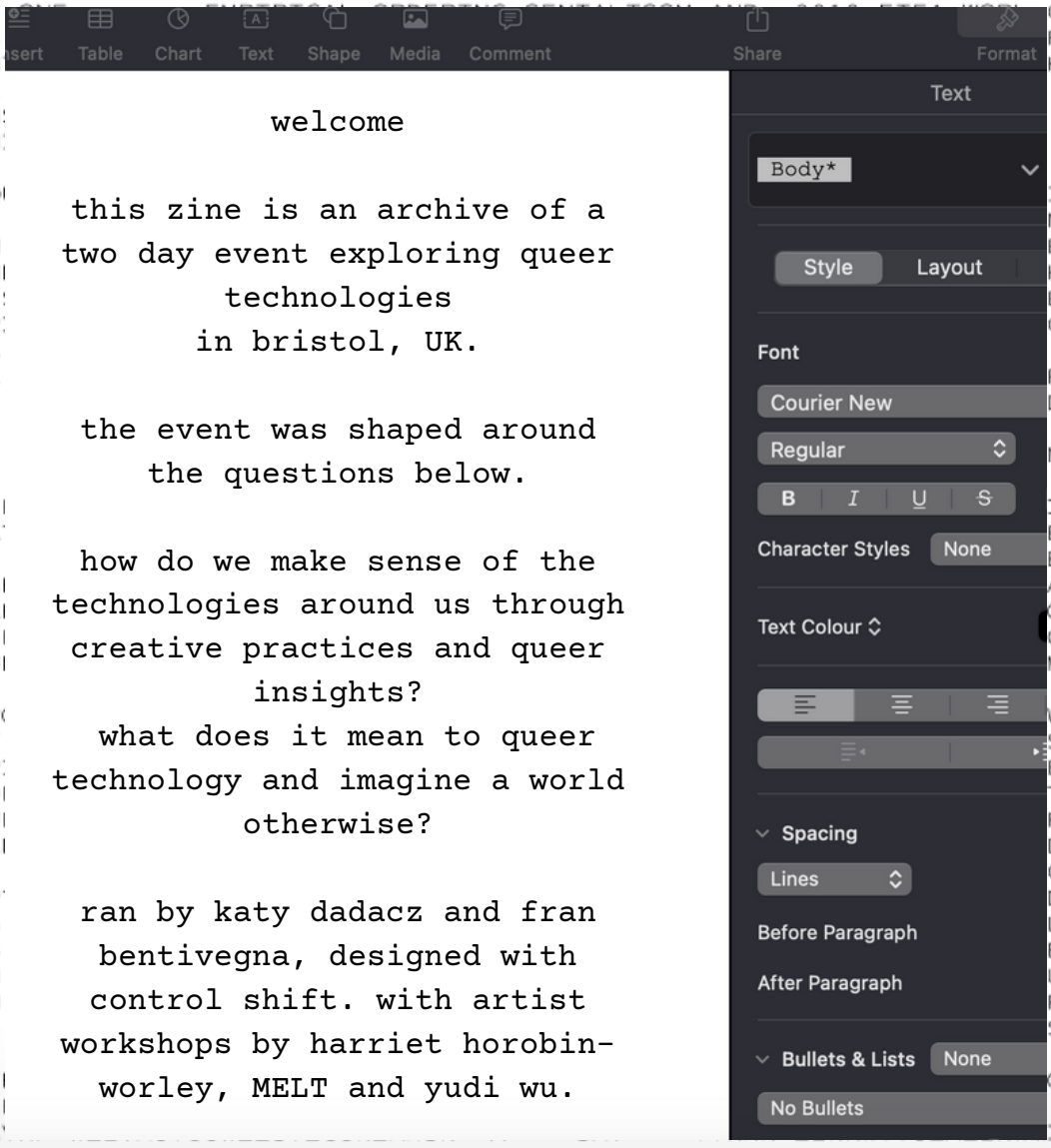
# QUEER EXPERIMENTS with TECHNOLOGIES




created by
Katy Dadacz
&
Harriet Horobin-Worley




welcome

this zine is an archive of a two day event exploring queer technologies in bristol, UK.

the event was shaped around the questions below.

how do we make sense of the technologies around us through creative practices and queer insights?
what does it mean to queer technology and imagine a world otherwise?

ran by katy dadacz and fran bentivegna, designed with control shift. with artist workshops by harriet horobin-worley, MELT and yudi wu.

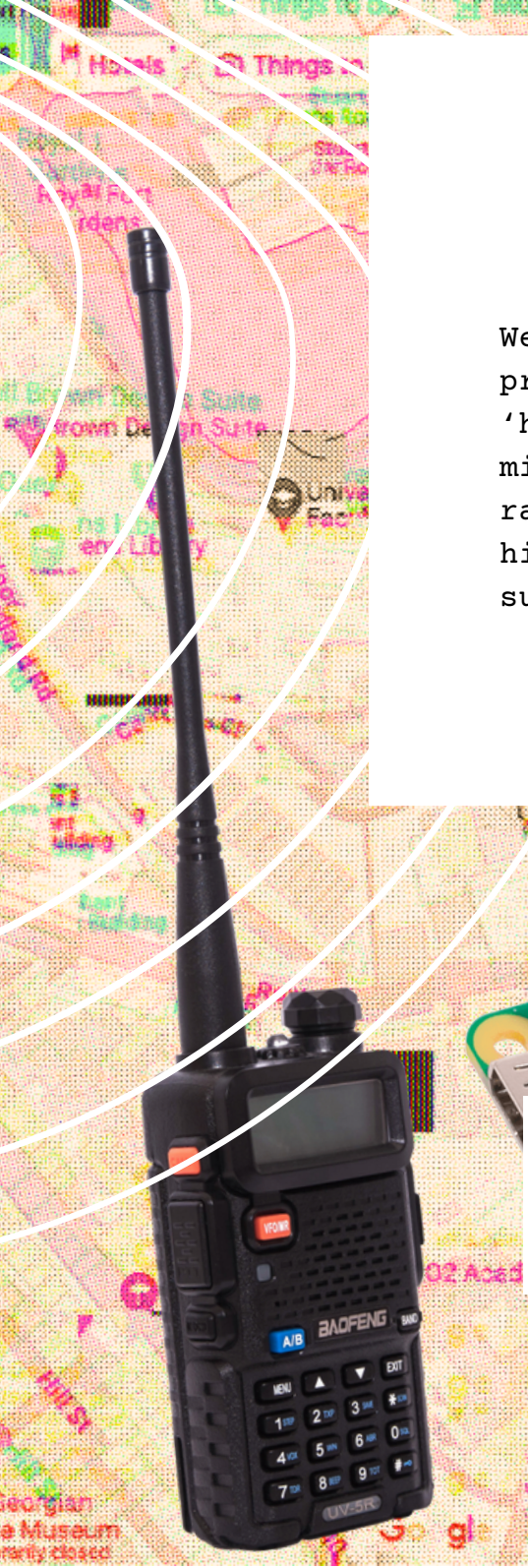
# Sound and Vision: Building our own networks

Can we make visible the infrastructure that holds us?

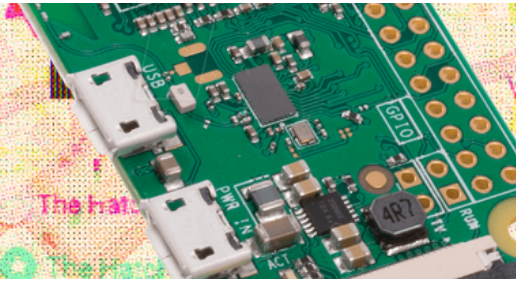
We explored the complex web of connections that brought us to the workshop and talked about the infrastructure that enables those connections. Word of mouth, universities, WhatsApp groups.

Could we use radio to re-imagine a new network?

We looked at the practicalities of ‘hacking’ a microprocessor to emit radio waves, and the history of radio as a subversive medium.



Harriet Horobin-Worley



# Methods/ dsohtem with MELT

## reimagining workshops and materials

- When have you felt safe in spaces and what made it so?

embodiment in space, who are the people in the room, being safe is not always about not being danger, the sense of being the space without needing to explain yourself/'apologise' in a way for being different

In the invitation itself on a whatershed event, there was consent culture mentioning, they said it was space, queer friendly, and they would not tolerate discrimination etc.

- What makes collective conditions different from a code of conduct? What is similar?

Code of conduct feels more hierarchically imposed (top->down).

Collective conditions do not necessarily include hierarchical structures. They are created and constant the collective.

both set a framework- rules to follow, shape behaviour and dynamics

- When have you felt great in collaborations? What made it so?
  - When collaborations have emerged out of friendships. Groundwork needed to set up good collaboraitions.
  - Made a friend out of collaborating with someone rather than being friends first.
  - Care relations, being invested in the people you're collaborating with.
  - To have positive collaboration its important to have understanding of who you're collaborating with.
  - Is friendship a requirement for good collaboration? Or is it a symptom? It is some sort of companionship. Maybe friendship is a reductive word, more like comradarie?
  - Sharing a home, collaborate to make a home, not all of them friends - more of collaborative frienships - collaboration and friendship - a situational friendship?
  - intellectional companionship, trust and respect
  - companion // colleague
  - we're not best friends but we have a relational mutual understanding
  - peer - doesn't have the same institutional vibe perhaps as colleague

- What are the biggest challenges that you experience in collaborative projects or collectives?
  - any sense that I might be in posession of some ultimate truth
  - the outcomes have to be collaborative -
  - one person thinking they are better in some way often leads to a negative experience
  - one person thinking they are better in some way at presenting themselves
  - disparity interms of capacity, logistical issues based on differing needs
  - institutions can help connect people or get in the way
  - hierarchies in institutions - between people who are having permenant contracts at a Uni / vs. freelance worlds
  - power difference that comes between length of time you've been there, and have to do shit work
  - language is such an interesting part of collaboration - how can you understand
  - being honest about capacity, to make sure there's equitable distrubition of work/tasks etc.
  - skillsets can be placed along such loaded lines of privlidge
  - people who are working on things because they get stuck with them, not because they want to
  - if you wanted to do lighting stuff (for example), would there be space for you to learn?

- What are practices that help make decisions in collectives? From our practice as MELT, we can share the method of "talking about things at least twice". This can take a lot of pressure out of the decision making process & provide time to form a strategy together.
  - in the context of writing a script: having a bunch of materials, some outside - newspaper articles, some of which are generated by a variety of contexts within the team, using those words and generating a script, a variety of voices are included
  - having trust in the people, trust that people will do them with their own skills, expect certain things from people without giving them space without doing them how they could work
  - -- if you are not doing the same of teaching someone, its wrong - trust and give space for difference
  - -- voting feels important, but very rarely works in practice
  - -- want to get to the same thoughts - values
  - - political organising - there is a kind of wittling down of ideas to debate or discussion

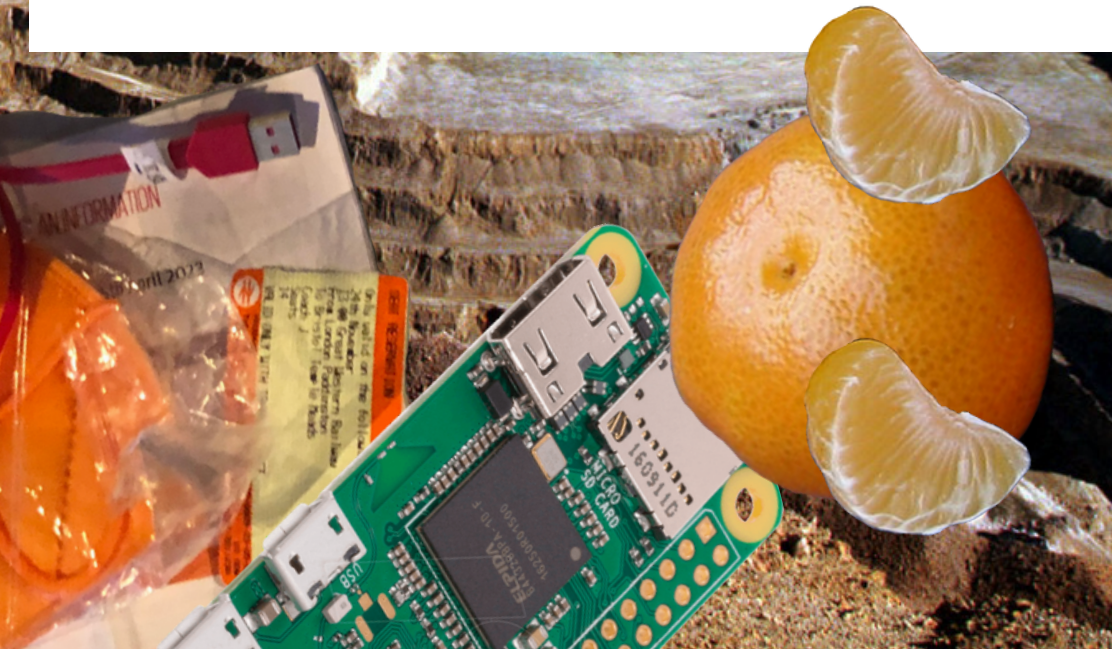
I guess I'm a sparrow
he shows
his eyes
and everyone
scream

Banana skin:

The banana skin is both tough and soft, as it exists to protect the nourishing insides enough for the banana to be transported across the world, but is soft and breakable enough for a person to easily open and eat the banana. Every touch it feels from the moment it is plucked leaves a trace upon it, which sometimes bloom into dark bruises. It can have a second role once it's been peeled, to nourish the earth in compost, but many are discarded in waste environments where they will degrade and their material comes to an end.

Metal:

I can provide strength and security, protection and power. You can stretch me into wires, solder me to others or bend me into any shape imaginable.



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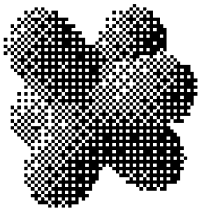
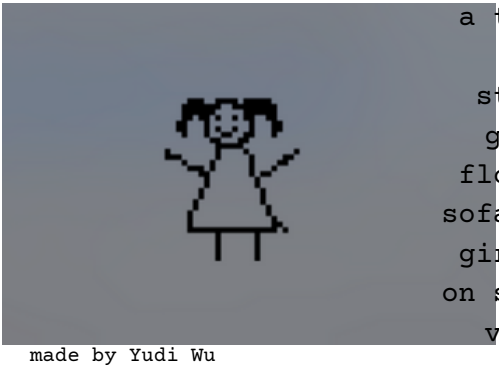


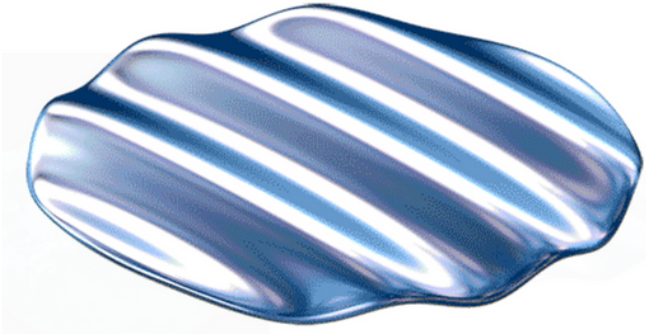
# creative responses from participants



made by Yudi Wu

a tamagotchi, on the screen an 8-bit image of stereotypical "girl", the girl move vertically (in flossing dance motion) to a sofa, machine beeps while the girl moves, girls sits down on sofa, machine make up-tone victory sounds, confetti shows up.

who controls the waves? Is violence interrupting someone's message or is it the privatisation of collective resources- (of the world?)
Feel the words, if they get to you. Can you hear them?
We're all here. We're all here.

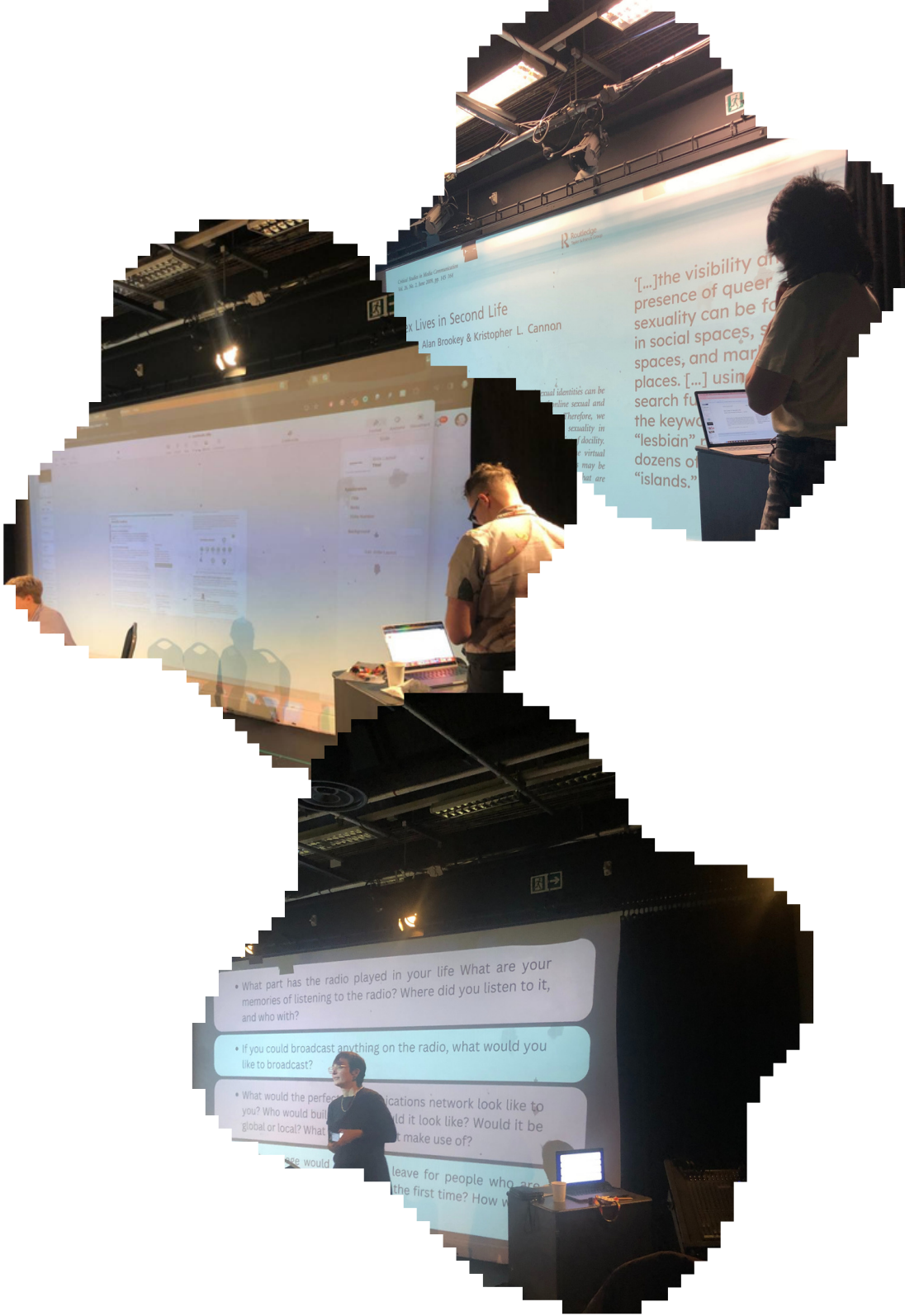


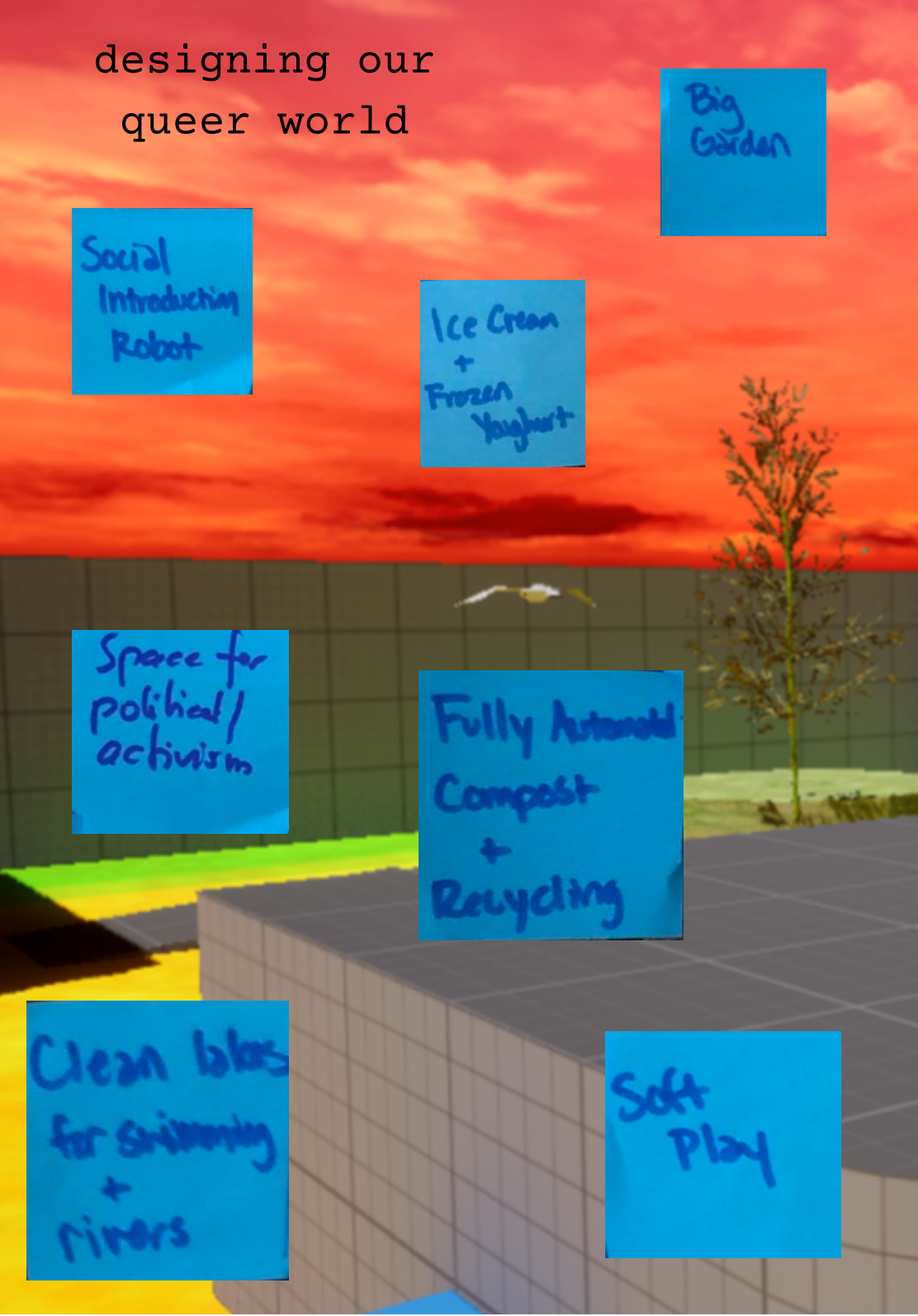
# how can take VTubers take part in local regeneration and queer community activism?

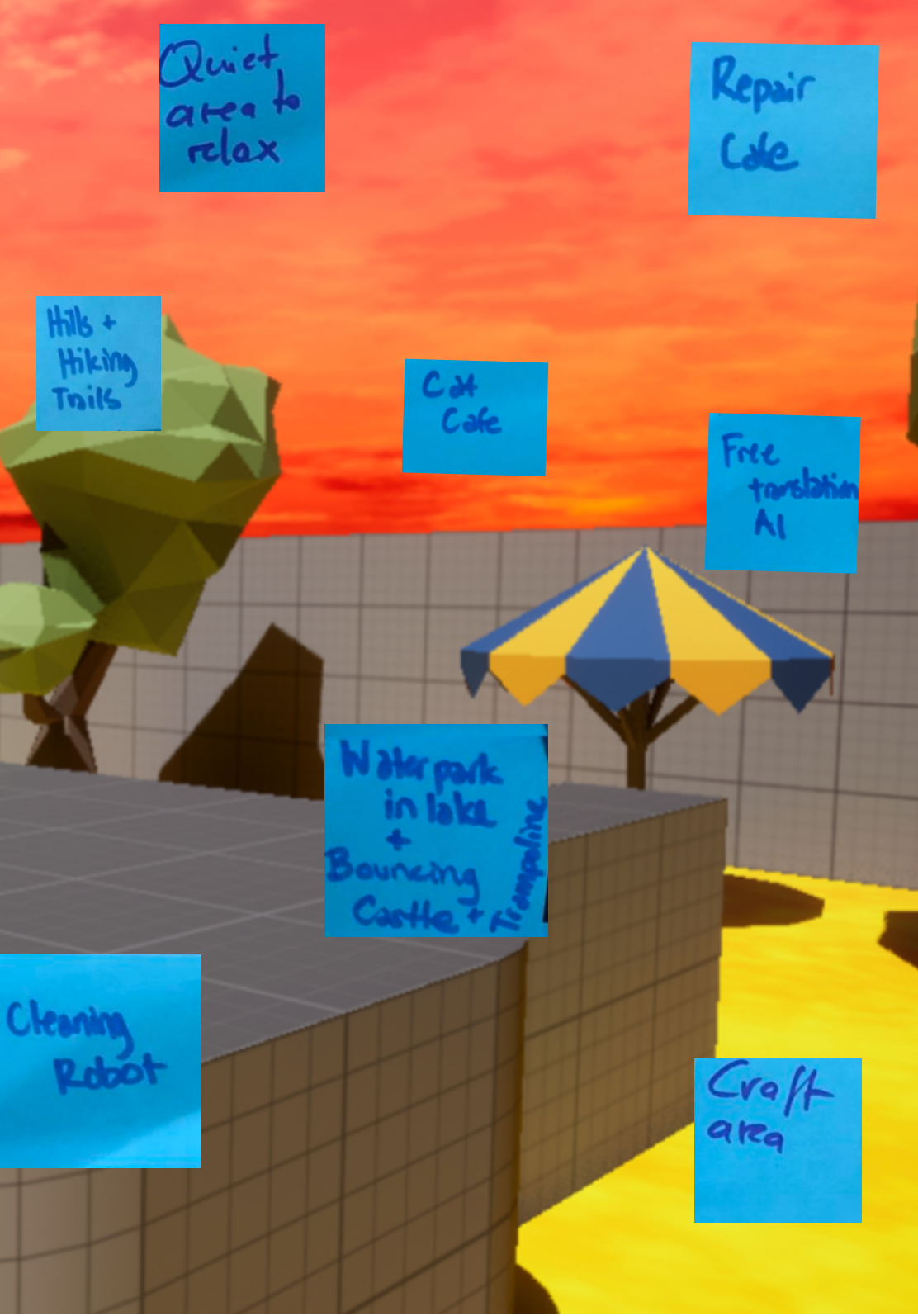
led by Yudi Wu

meet Geniune. they are a queer elder looking out for the digital community and those AFK (away from keyboard)*.
they have purple hair, green skin, glasses, wrinkles, a purple fluffy tail. they wear a jumper and shorts that look like ice cream melting.

*AFK is a term introduced by Legacy Russell in Glitch Feminism (2020). She criticises the online/offline binary; the virtual and actual seep into each other.

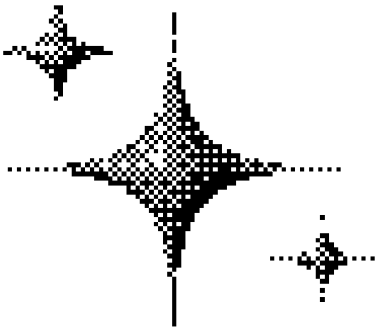

Lives in Second Life
Alan Brookey & Kristopher L. Cannon
• What part has the radio played in your life What are your memories of listening to the radio? Where did you listen to it, and who with?
• If you could broadcast anything on the radio, what would you like to broadcast?


designing our
queer world
Big Garden
Social Introducing Robot
Ice Cream + Frozen Yoghurt
Space for political/ activism
Fully Automated Compost + Recycling
Clean lakes for swimming + rivers
Soft Play


Quiet area to relax
Repair Cafe
Hills + Hiking Trails
Cat Cafe
Free translation AI
Water park in lake + Bouncing Castle + Trampoline
Cleaning Robot
Craft area

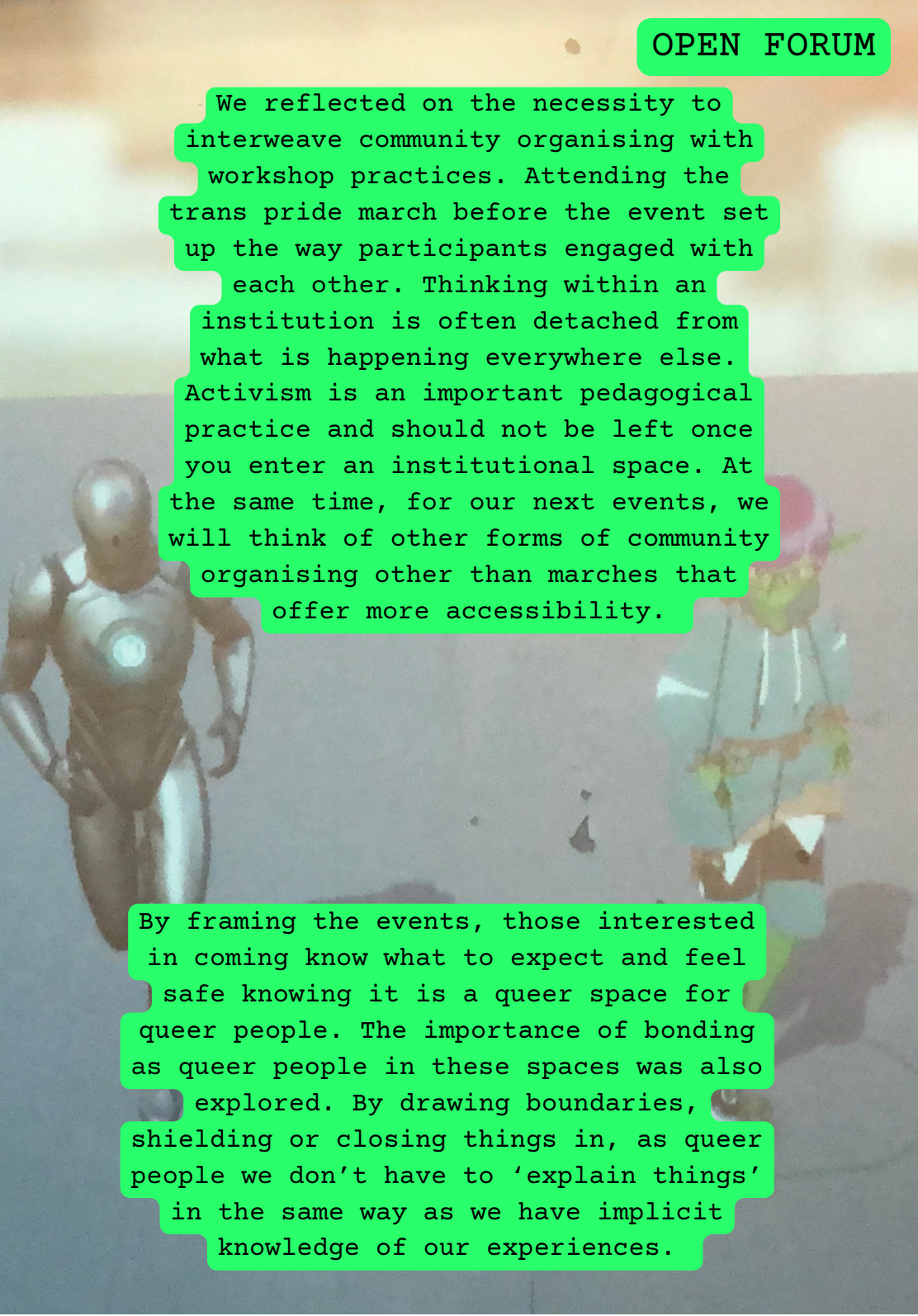
# i want to create a vtuber (easy and cheap ways)

| | avatar | make it alive |
|---|---|---|
| 2D | charat.me | PNG Maker |
| | draw one yourself | Live2D |
| | Booth.pm | |
| 3D | VRoid Studio | VSeeface or similar |
| | Model & Rig one yourself | VR Chat |
| | Booth.pm | Unity/Unreal Engine |



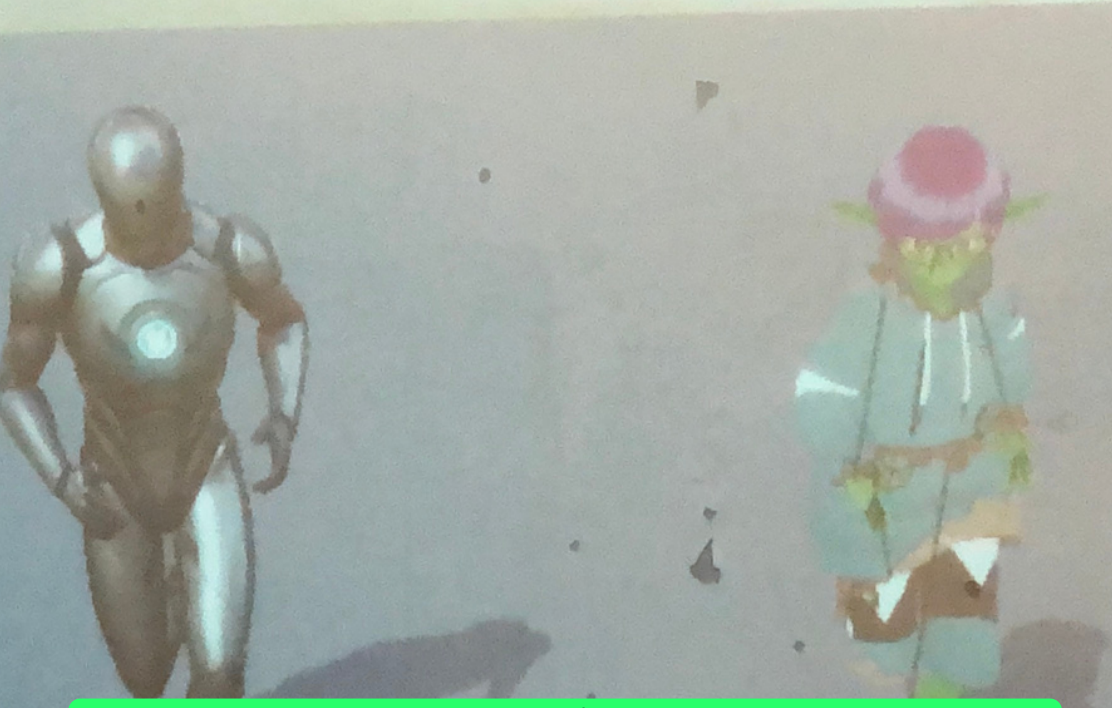
# OPEN FORUM

We reflected on the necessity to interweave community organising with workshop practices. Attending the trans pride march before the event set up the way participants engaged with each other. Thinking within an institution is often detached from what is happening everywhere else. Activism is an important pedagogical practice and should not be left once you enter an institutional space. At the same time, for our next events, we will think of other forms of community organising other than marches that offer more accessibility.



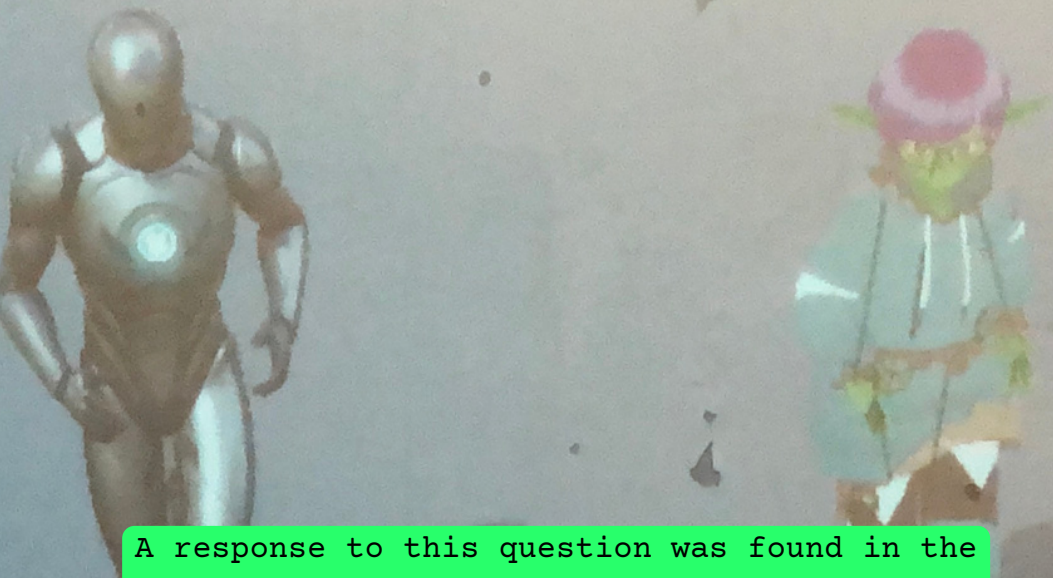
By framing the events, those interested in coming know what to expect and feel safe knowing it is a queer space for queer people. The importance of bonding as queer people in these spaces was also explored. By drawing boundaries, shielding or closing things in, as queer people we don't have to 'explain things' in the same way as we have implicit knowledge of our experiences.

We discussed how tech has an implicit barrier for socially engaged practice; this event challenged this by beginning with the social/interests/desires, and then turned to technologies as ways to shape this.



Then, we can ask the question; what do we need from this space? Companions, resources, community etc. That way we frame the events with the knowledge that we are the audience in mind. As well as building capacities for imagining, the group felt more agency will be developed through learning skills and making things together, for example DIY practices. In these collective spaces, we can learn, play and make.

A key question that arose; what will serve us and what will exploit us? The event was ran at the university of bristol. A participant raised an important point about addressing the feeling of being aware that we are doing queer experimentation within this context (institutional ties with oppressive organisations and states). Further, we want dismantles the hierarchy in which the 'saviours' of the university swoop in to help the queer community.



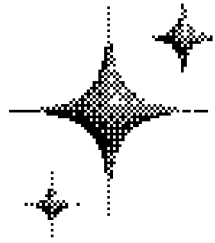
A response to this question was found in the importance of setting intention. What is the intention of each event? Of each workshop? Of each space? Through consent based practice, we can offer tiered layers of intentional ways of sharing. Further, the event organisers must think about the ongoing context- map out an ongoing arch for who is responsible in order for values to be maintained. This is a process of making us responsible in different roles, to keep each other safe and cared for.

# resource/reading list

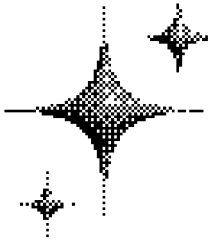
We will be growing this resource list on our soon-to-be website. At the moment, you can find it here..

https://padlet.com/dadaczkaty/queer-tech-reading-list-eh7ydhww0kggtxf

thank you to all the participants for your care, your critical creativity and your queer imaginings.



included in these zines are scans of paintings done by a live illustrator over the course of the event by Carrot. find them on insta @carr0000t



we will be running more events, building a website and growing our community. contact us @ queertechschool@gmail.com