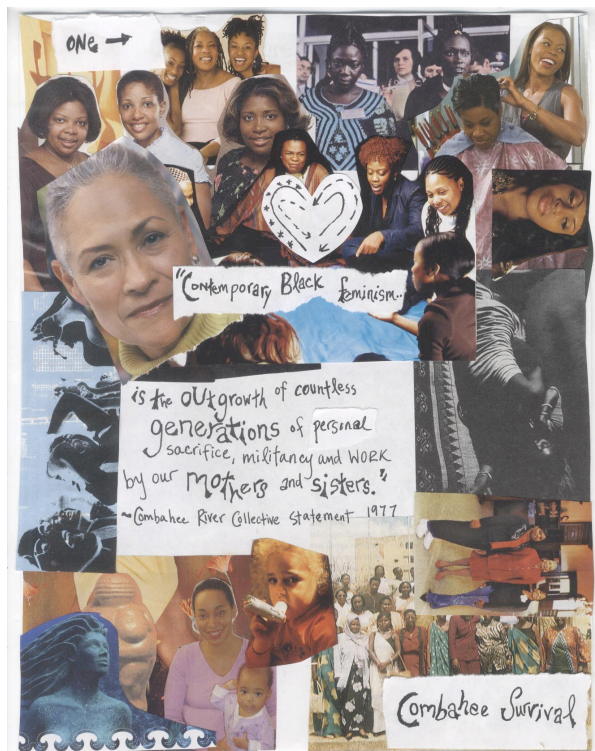


Combahee Survival: Revival Politics



In 1977 a group of black, lesbian, socialist, feminist writers and thinkers created a groundbreaking statement of their beliefs that made a new intersectional political analysis thinkable. The work of the Combahee River Collective survives everywhere where organizers, artists and visionaries insist that "the major systems of oppression are interlocking." Today, right here, a crew of young troublesome queer black feminists are invoking this statement in a project designed to celebrate and instigate a survival/revival process for diverse movements of radical and progressive people everywhere.

Activity #3 “Always”

Always. Like the word between love and your name in a love letter. Always. Like the pastel plastic promise that your period can become cute. Always. Like an ahistorical historicization. Like the production of eternity without witnesses. Like a recurring nightmare of hoping you exist.

The word “always” can be used to create a history where there was nothing but disbelief. It can also be used to make it seem like something is natural, just because it happens to have been going on for a long time. The Combahee River Collective Statement uses the word “always” to establish a tradition of black feminism that predates the work of the women in the collective, AND some folks have found fault with these statements about what black women have “always” been doing, because it seems to suggest that there is some sort of natural standard for black women’s behavior.

Love, (always)

www.combaheesurvival.wordpress.com

How do you (want to) use the word “always” in your movement work?
Use the back of this sheet to make 5 sentences that use the word “always” (or don’t) to describe the tradition and vision of your work as honestly as you can. You may notice that the word “always” has different meaning every time.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

A Reflection from Noah Blöse:



Pauli Murray is from Durham North Carolina

“Michelle L. told me that Pauli Murray was trans. S/he was a founder of the National Organization for Women. How do we know when to name/claim our own, and why do we or don’t we do it? How and why do we rewrite histories to see ourselves there?”